

# THE MILITANT

**INSIDE**  
Communists in Sweden chart  
party-building course

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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## Central Asia war accelerates assault on workers' rights

### U.S. sets up Afghan military bases, prepares next stage of war

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Washington is deploying more troops on the ground and establishing military bases and airfields in Afghanistan and Tajikistan as part of the next stage of the imperialists' Afghan war. The Pentagon is sending thousands of troops, ships, and bombers to the region, and using AC-130 gunships to fight Taliban forces retreating from the country's major cities.

This is "far from over," insisted Rumsfeld, as the Pentagon dispatched an additional 1,000 ground forces from the Army's 1st Cavalry Division based at Fort Hood, Texas, to join the more than 3,000 U.S. soldiers stationed in Kuwait, part of an extensive U.S. force throughout the region.

The collapse of Taliban defenses under daily heavy bombardment by imperialist forces, including carpet bombing by B-52s

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Above, crew of Arabian Sea-based aircraft carrier USS *Carl Vinson* prepare Tomcat fighter jet for attack on Afghanistan. U.S. air and ground forces are preparing offensive in southern part of country. Left, Northern Alliance troops execute wounded Taliban soldier on drive to Kabul. The soldier had surrendered and pleaded for his life.

### Bush approves military tribunals; courts float use of sedition laws

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Washington's imperialist war in Afghanistan and Central Asia is accelerating the U.S. rulers' assault on workers' rights at home. Over the past week the Bush administration announced new steps that threaten the rights of working people. These include plans for establishing special military tribunals to try noncitizens, and rounding up for questioning 5,000 people from Middle Eastern countries who entered the country legally over the past two years. Last week federal prosecutors also cited a Civil War-era law on sedition in the case of a student being detained in New York.

U.S. attorney general John Ashcroft announced November 8 he was putting the Justice Department on a "wartime footing." Among the moves disclosed by the attorney general was a plan that allows prison

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## Socialist candidate in Miami wins support in fight against political firing

BY CHARLES HUNTER

MIAMI—"This firing is outrageous. I'll be at the Thursday night defense committee meeting," said Alexander Lopera, a young organizer for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), when he learned about the political firing of Michael Italie, the recent Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Miami.

Lopera had met Italie at a recent Miami Jobs with Justice meeting, where the socialist garment worker was talking with union members about the First Amendment free speech fight. Young people like Lopera have been among the most outspoken supporters campaigning against the Socialist Workers candidate's unconstitutional firing.

"This is an issue worth fighting for," Lopera added. "Youth are in the forefront of this battle and people should listen to what young people have to say." The SEIU mem-

ber joined a team at Florida International University gathering signatures on petitions to protest the firing and passing out literature produced by the Committee to Defend Freedom of Speech and the Bill of Rights.

Another young fighter, Heather Page, joined Italie passing out leaflets to workers

at the plant gate in front of Goodwill Industries where he had worked as a sewing machine operator. Page helped petition for support at Miami Dade Community College. She is also joining the socialist candidate at a national meeting of Young Socialists and

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## Students and workers join young socialists movement

BY JACK WARD

MUNCIE, Indiana—Leading up to the November 17-18 Young Socialists weekend in Chicago, students in Indiana organized a speaking tour on "Youth and the Coming American Revolution: The Worldwide Movement against Imperialism."

Many students at high schools in Indianapolis and at Ball State University here have rejected the imperialist war in Afghanistan and government assaults on workers' rights that have accelerated since September 11. In the past few months they have participated in events to discuss opposition to the U.S. war, socialist classes, and communist literature tables, and have hosted speaking events with leaders of the Young Socialists.

The Young Socialists Weekend in Chicago will feature a talk November 17 by Socialist Workers Party leader Norton Sandler on "The working-class and the struggle against imperialism today: Expanding opportunities to build the communist movement." There will also be a panel discussion of young socialists who have been campaigning against imperialism and its war, supporting union struggles, and defending immigrant rights.

Mike Italie, the SWP's candidate for mayor in the recent election in Miami, will also speak. The YS has joined a nationwide fight organized out of Miami to defend First Amendment rights, by protesting the politi-

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## Contribute to the Pathfinder Fund!

BY RÓGER CALERO

Supporters of the Pathfinder Fund around the country and internationally are gaining momentum in the campaign to win new pledges and collect contributions toward the \$125,000 goal. The fund will make possible

the publication of an impressive list of new books and pamphlets by the publisher of revolutionary literature over the coming months. In addition, money collected in the drive is an essential component of efforts by working people and Pathfinder supporters to keep in print the more than 300 titles published by Pathfinder—books needed by workers and farmers who are facing imperialist war, economic depression, and racist assaults, and who are resisting the employers' offensive against their lives and organizations.

Developments over the last week show the opportunities for winning a growing

Continued on Page 4

## Dockworkers push back antiunion frame-up

BY NAOMI CRAINE

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—Members of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) in Charleston, South Carolina, declared victory in the case of the "Charleston Five" after a nearly two-year battle in defense of union rights that won international support.

Days before the framed-up dockworkers were to be tried on felony riot charges that could lead to long prison terms, the prosecution settled for a plea agreement on misdemeanor charges with no jail time. "The Charleston Five are finally free," said Kenneth Riley, president of ILA Local 1422. "This is a tremendous victory for the labor

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**Miners press fight against coal operator Murray — page 10**

# Minnesota protesters condemn raid on money transfer firms

BY CHRIS NISAN

MINNEAPOLIS—"We would like to tell the government not to terrorize us," said Omar Jamal, executive director of the Somali Justice Center, at a rally of about 400 people November 8 called in response to raids carried out by the federal agents against five money transfer businesses a day earlier.

The raids here were coordinated with similar attacks in Boston, Seattle, and Columbus, Ohio, claiming the offices and companies providing funds to groups deemed by Washington to be "terrorist."

Agents of the Treasury Departments Office of Foreign Assets Control, the U.S. Customs Service, the FBI, and the IRS descended on the offices of Al-Barakaat International Inc., Global Service International, Aaran Money Wire Service, Al-Barakaat Wiring Service and the Somali International Relief Organization. They sealed the offices and taped signs on the doors reading "blocked by Presidential order." One man detained by authorities was subsequently released.

Jamal reported that the agents took everything in the office, including all the computers, files, and desks. "They even confiscated the sandwiches in the refrigerator," he said. "There are other money transfer services that were not shut down but have not opened because of fear," Jamal said. The government has yet to produce any evidence that the businesses involved have violated any law.

The rally was organized by the Somali Justice Center and the North Country Coop, a food cooperative located in the building where one of the raids took place. The rally received prominent coverage on local television and in the press.

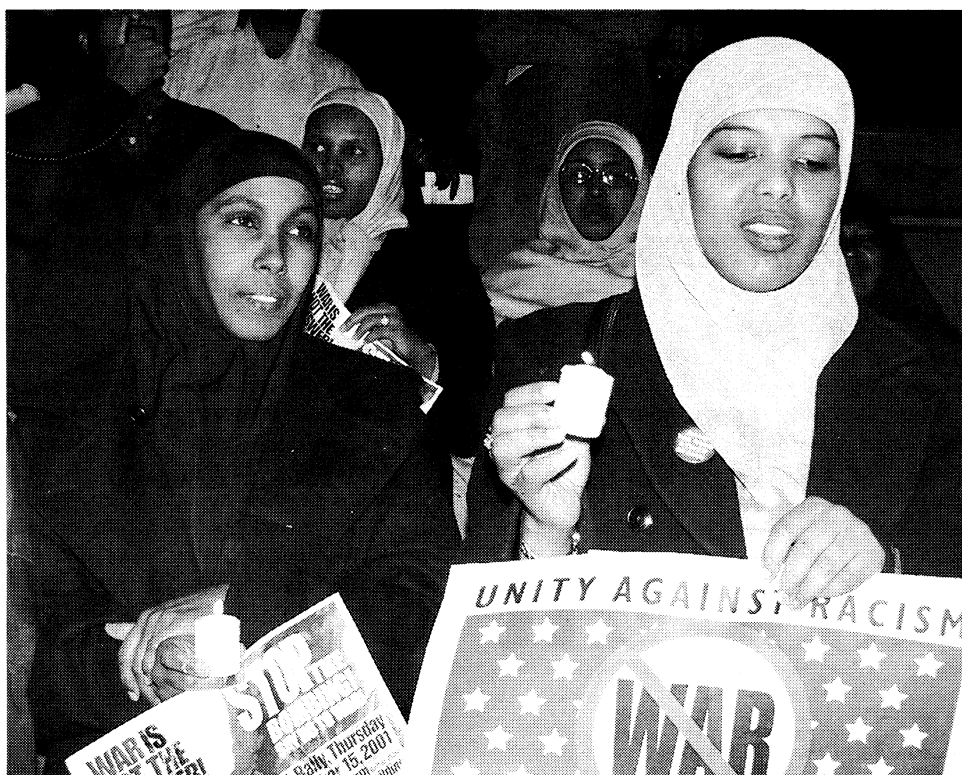
The crowd included many Somalis as well as many others. Jamal expressed the outrage of many at the violation of democratic rights by the government. "We were told that a person is considered innocent until proven guilty," he said, adding the protest "is about

defending human rights. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere!"

The businesses that were shut down allow immigrant workers, mostly from Somalia and other parts of East Africa, to send money back home.

"Many Somalis work two jobs: one to support their life here, the other to send money home," said Halima Ali, a Somali woman who spoke to the rally. "All they [the U.S. government] send us in the camps is corn," explained Ali, referring to the refugee camps set up in the aftermath of the invasion of Somalia by the U.S. Pointing out that the working people in the camps are dependent on foreign remittances, Ali added, "Now what will they do, send us more corn?"

The need for solidarity in the face of these attacks was a theme reiterated by most of those who spoke. "We are all immigrants here today. What they do to Somalis today they will do to others tomorrow," said Polly Mann, former director of Women against



Emmett Thomas

**Protest in Minneapolis November 8 against government raid and shutdown of money transfer businesses, which immigrants use to send money to their families overseas.**

Military Madness.

Mel Reeves, a local political activist got an enthusiastic response, especially from many of the Somalis in attendance, when he linked the attack on democratic rights to

the U.S. war on Afghanistan and denounced the war as imperialist.

Jamal said that a forum is scheduled for November 15 and plans are being discussed for another protest rally.

## 'Free the five Cubans in U.S. prison'

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

NEW YORK—"We are here to demand the freedom of the five compañeros," said Luis Miranda of Casa de las Américas, speaking at a public meeting here November 10. The New York City Free the Five Committee sponsored the meeting to demand the U.S. government release five Cubans convicted of frame-up charges of conspiracy to commit espionage. They are imprisoned in Florida and awaiting sentencing in a federal jail.

Miranda addressed around 80 people who attended the event, held at a church in Harlem. Along with other speakers he described the history of threats and violent actions against supporters of Casa de las Américas in New York.

Miranda reviewed the history of U.S.

government support for counterrevolutionary forces based in Florida, whose bombings, invasions, assassination attempts, and other attacks have been part of Washington's war against the Cuban Revolution for more than four decades. These include the 1976 bombing by U.S.-trained counterrevolutionaries of a Cuban airliner over Barbados in which 73 people died and the 1980 murder of Felix Garcia, a member of the Cuban mission to the United Nations.

In response to continued attacks on Cuba by rightist forces in Florida with the full knowledge of Washington, the Cuban government sought to learn about the activities and plans of these organizations. As a June 20 statement by the Cuban government pointed out, the five were in Miami to "discover and report on terrorist plans hatched against our people" in Florida by counterrevolutionary opponents of the Cuban Revolution. Cuban leaders have organized a campaign to win the release of the five, including widespread coverage in the Cuban press.

On June 8, a federal court in Miami convicted three Cuban citizens—Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, and Antonio Guerrero—of "conspiracy to commit espionage," and "conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent." They could face life in prison. Two others, Fernando González and René González, were convicted of "conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent."

Hernández was also convicted on unprecedented charges of "conspiracy to commit murder," in which the prosecution claimed he was responsible for the deaths of four

pilots who were members of the rightist Cuban-American group, Brothers to the Rescue. The pilots were shot down by the Cuban air force in 1996, after repeated and provocative violations of Cuban air space, despite warnings. The prosecution justified the charges by claiming Hernández had provided the Cuban government with flight information about the Brothers to the Rescue operation. The sentencing of the five, originally set for early fall, is now scheduled for mid-December.

Maggie Becker, the companion of Guerrero, was the featured speaker at the New York meeting. Becker stressed the harsh terms of the Cubans' 38-month imprisonment, more than half of which they have spent in solitary confinement. The prison authorities have told them that the spells in solitary are "for their own protection" and have offered no further explanation. Becker said after the meeting. The other prisoners have never threatened them, she said; in fact, they applauded the Cubans on their return from the trial.

Each of the five is allowed no more than 300 minutes worth of personal phone calls each month, she said to the meeting. "If it was one person, that might not seem so bad. But there are many family members and friends who need to speak to them." Becker also read several poems by Guerrero.

**'Cuba has a right to defend itself'**

In a June 17 statement that was available to meeting participants, the five wrote that they have "endured a severe imprisonment

**Continued on Page 4**

## THE MILITANT

### Protest assault on workers' rights

*From stepped-up use of National Guard troops to the raids on money transfer businesses, the attacks on workers' rights are accelerating as Washington escalates its imperialist war against Afghanistan. The 'Militant' gives you the facts about the U.S. rulers' war on working people at home and abroad.*



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# Socialist encourages students to back cause

Printed below is an article from the November 13 *Ball State Daily News*, a campus newspaper in Indiana. The article, titled "Socialist writer encourages students to support cause," reports on a talk presented to students there by Jack Willey, a *Militant* staff writer and leader of the Socialist Workers Party.

Also appearing in the campus paper the same day was a column by Elbert Aull titled "Apathy take a break—for a day." The column stated, "U.S. out of Afghanistan." So read a sign, scrawled in red and black pen, placed in front of an information table manned by several members of Ball State's Young Socialists party Monday. The organization advocates support of labor unions and has taken a strong stance against America's role in the war in Afghanistan." Aull added, "As the day went on, the table became somewhat of a gathering place where people with all sorts of political views went to share information, compare stances, and argue them.... Now, more than ever, students across the nation need to decide on which side of the coin they rest."

BY NICK WERNER

The war in Afghanistan is an imperialistic war that will lead to human and worker's rights violations and the financial exploitation of Afghanistan, Jack Willey said to an audience of 18 students Monday at Teacher's College during a lecture sponsored by Ball State Young Socialists.

Willey, a staff writer for the *Militant* newspaper, opened his pro-socialist speech with a quote from Fidel Castro explaining why capitalists fear socialism and how socialism improves humanity.

"The socialist revolution, from day one, has not been a revolution for only Cuba," Willey said. "It is for people who want to advance humanity forward. The Cuban revolution shows what socialism can offer humanity and what kind of people emerge from socialist thinking."

Willey then went on to contrast socialism and capitalism, an economic system that Willey claims causes hostility between workers and leaders. Willey also said that capitalism leads to imperialistic warfare and used the current situation in Afghanistan as an example.

According to Willey, the war can be considered imperialistic for many reasons. First of all, he said, a dominant power is exaggerating its role in society to justify war against a weaker country. Second, it is a war for wealth and resources in a region rich in oil and minerals. Finally, according to Willey, this war is one waged by a finance capital.

"This is a war so that (the United States) can cut out a bigger section of the world for their own advantage," Willey said.

To prove his point, Willey said the United States has been wanting to build a 100-mile pipeline through Afghanistan.

"This war will make that easier," he said. According to Willey, this war has resulted in an increase in human and workers rights violations.

"These attacks and violations are occurring because the government is using the

pretext of war and national security to justify violating people."

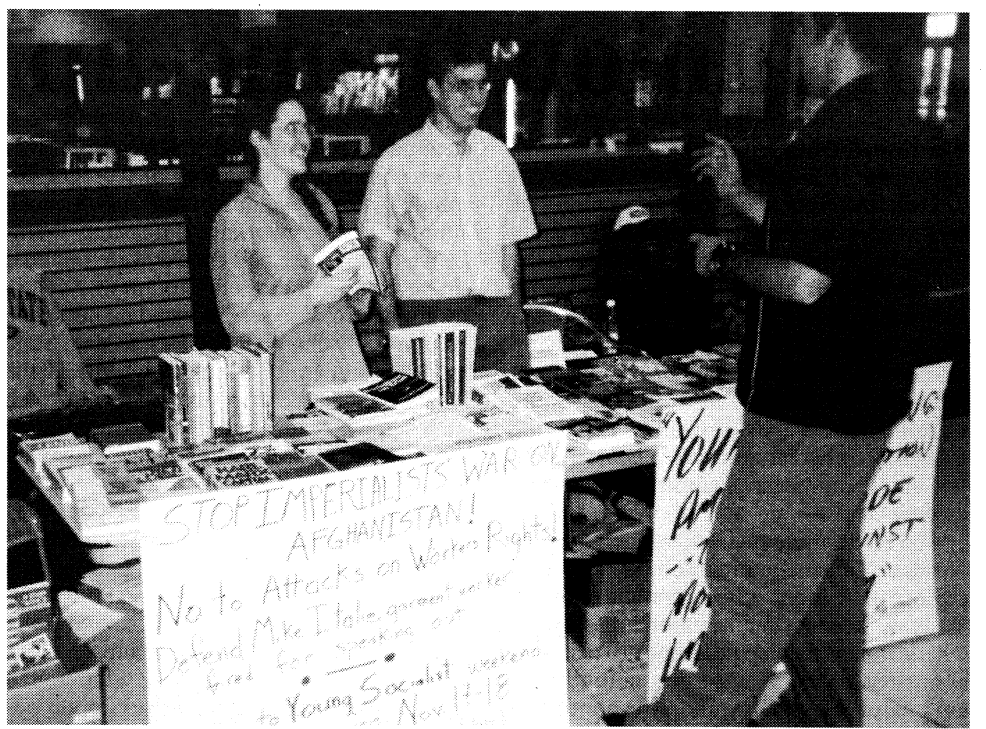
Willey then gave examples of rights violations that have occurred since the Sept. 11 attack. He noted that the FBI has been interrogating Middle Eastern students on over 220 campuses and said the government was using national security as an excuse for harassment. Willey also spoke about Miami firefighters who were fired for removing an American Flag from a fire truck and South Carolina dockworkers who were arrested for inciting a riot during an organized strike.

Willey ended his speech with a description of the two roads America can take. The first road is one of capitalism that, according to Willey, will drag America down into more wars, more epidemics, and more poverty. The alternative is to emulate the Cuban Revolution. Willey then predicted the fall of the U.S.

"Just like Rome, just like the Czar of Russia, just like Batista in Cuba, so to will the almighty American empire come down."

Ball State student Sarah Felker agreed with the message but disagreed somewhat with his delivery.

"He should've given more history," Felker said. "He assumed everyone understood communism."



Young Socialists table at Ball State became "gathering place where people with all sorts of political views went to share information," wrote columnist for campus paper. Jack Willey, who spoke at meeting on November 12, is in center of photo.

## Students join young socialists movement

Continued from front page

cal firing of Italie by Goodwill Industries for speaking out against the imperialist war and in defense of the Cuban Revolution.

A Young Socialists National Leadership Council meeting is also planned for the weekend. Young people from across the country are making plans to attend the two days of meetings, including a number from Muncie and Indianapolis.

The November 8-12 speaking tour included Jack Willey, a staff writer for the *Militant*, and Arrin Hawkins, a leader of the Young Socialists from Chicago. Both speakers had participated in the World Festival of Youth and Students in Algeria and the Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange in Havana this past summer.

After setting up a literature table for several hours at a college hangout in Indianapolis, nine youths, mainly high school students, got together at a coffee shop.

### Cuban Revolution

In his talk Jack Willey pointed to Cuba's socialist revolution as an example for working people in the United States and worldwide. He quoted from the *Second Declaration of Havana*, a declaration read by Fidel Castro to a mass rally in 1962. At the rally, Castro explained the Yankee imperialists' fear of Cuba's example, which shows a socialist revolution can be made and defended, right under the nose of the world's mightiest power.

Under capitalist rule, Willey said, the antagonisms between the working class and big business won't end. In fact, the superwealthy U.S. ruling class has stepped up its attacks on working and living conditions over the past two decades. Washington's imperialist

war against Afghanistan is aimed, in part, at gaining a military foothold in Central Asia and using military force to try to gain stability for capitalist exploitation of the natural resources of the region.

Arrin Hawkins reported on the importance of the anti-imperialist gathering of 6,500 youth and students in Algeria. She pointed to the people she met, who were part of the struggles for independence of Puerto Rico and for the self-determination of Palestine and Western Sahara, who exchanged experiences and discussed how to most effectively fight imperialism. The festival is one reflection of an international anti-imperialist movement, with a communist component that is beginning to take shape.

Students attending the event asked what role youth can play as revolutionaries. One student explained that his school forces students to pledge allegiance to the flag. He asked, "How can I stand up in my refusal and explain why I'm against saluting an imperialist nation?" He also pointed to the lack of civil rights in the United States.

There was quite a bit of discussion about the threat posed by government attacks on workers' rights, including the detention of more than 1,000 people under the guise of investigating the attacks in New York and Washington. One student said friends of hers were hesitant to speak out against the war out of fear of persecution by the government.

### A lively day of political events

The next day the Ball State University Young Socialists, a student group on campus, hosted a number of events in Muncie. Fifteen students and young workers, including a high school student from Indianapolis, participated in a class on the Pathfinder book *Socialism on Trial* by James P. Cannon. They discussed the opening sections of testimony by Cannon, the national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party at that time.

In the book, Cannon describes the history and heritage of the Socialist Workers Party. He defines what capitalism is, the social forces pushing U.S. imperialism to war, prerequisites for social revolution, and the fundamental aim of the party. Those at the class discussed the difference between Stalinism and Bolshevism; whether or not there is a halfway step between capitalism and socialism, as in some countries in Europe that have greater social welfare programs, such as health care; and whether or not there are class divisions in Cuba.

After the class, several students purchased books from a large selection of new and used Pathfinder titles

and discussed the glass workers strike. Several had been to the picket lines the previous day and had read an article in the *Militant* about the strike. They pointed to the company's "offer" to attack seniority rights, to have the right to mandate workers to work up to eight hours overtime, and slash wages after company "evaluations" of workers.

Everyone then went to Dunkirk where they met with union officials and visited the picket line to learn more about the fight. The students wrapped up the day with several more hours of political discussion over a chili dinner. A number of students picked up a copy of the "truth kit" about the firing of Mike Italo and began discussing how to join the campaign to defend freedom of speech.

Several Ball State young socialists set up an all-day literature table November 12 that featured a sign: "Stop the imperialist war on Afghanistan! No to attacks on workers' rights! Defend Mike Italo, garment worker fired for speaking out. Come to Young Socialists weekend in Chicago." It became a lively center for political discussion and drew much interest in a speaking event that evening.

Many who stopped by had met the Ball State Young Socialists earlier when the group held a bake sale to raise funds for the speaking tour. At the sale they handed out flyers with the political principles adopted at the Second National Convention of the Young Socialists and signed up about 50 people interested in the Ball State group.

Twenty students came to the evening meeting featuring Willey that included a 45-minute question-and-answer period after the presentation (see article above).

The speaking tour also included a meeting at DePaul University and a Militant Labor Forum in Chicago. A young garment worker who attended the forum met with Willey and others for several hours after the forum.

## CUBA and the Coming American Revolution by Jack Barnes

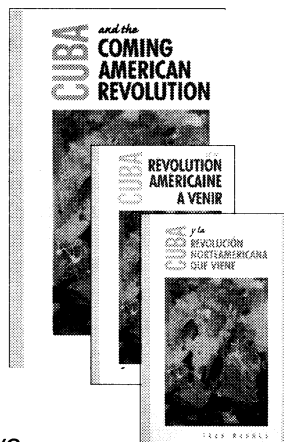
There will be a victorious revolution in the United States before a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba

— Fidel Castro, March 1961

*Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* is about the struggles of working people in the imperialist heartland, the youth who are attracted to them, and the example set by the people of Cuba that revolution is not only necessary—it can be made. Preface by Mary-Alice Waters. **In English, Spanish, and French.**

"Reading *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* is the most useful book to prepare for all of the questions we face in world and U.S. politics today." — Frank Forrestal, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Pittsburgh

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.



### Reykjavik, Iceland, Saturday Nov. 24

**Imperialist War in Afghanistan, Resistance Among Working People in Iceland, and Building the Communist Movement**

Featured speaker:  
**Mary-Alice Waters**  
Socialist Workers Party

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**Hall of Union Felag Bokagerdamanna, Hverfisgata 21**

**Hosted by supporters of the Militant and Young Socialists in Iceland.**

# Dockworkers defeat antiunion frame-up

Continued from front page movement in South Carolina."

Over the past two years the union has turned back a company drive to begin using nonunion labor on the docks, defended the five framed-up workers, and joined with thousands of others in dealing a blow to racism today by forcing the state government to remove the Confederate battle flag from the top of the Capitol in Columbia, South Carolina. Thousands of workers across the Carolinas, where unionization hovers in the low single digits, have supported this battle as their own.

The battle started two years ago when the Nordana Lines shipping company tried to replace ILA labor with a nonunion outfit, Winyah Stevedoring, to unload its ships in Charleston. Winyah paid about \$10 per hour, compared to the \$16-24 that union members earn. The dockworkers responded to this transparent attempt at union busting with informational pickets against every Nordana ship that pulled into port.

Just past midnight on the morning of Jan. 20, 2000, some 150 ILA members began to march from their union hall to the docks to picket a Nordana ship. The workers were surrounded and attacked by 600 cops, from six different jurisdictions, in full riot gear. In the melee that ensued, the police used shock grenades, smoke bombs, dogs, and

tear gas. The cops fired "bean-bag" projectiles and injured a number of workers, including the president of the union local. Photos of dockworkers defending themselves against the cop attacks were featured in newspapers across the country.

Eight workers were arrested on the scene and initially charged with trespassing. State attorney general Charles Condon had the charges increased to instigating a riot, which is a felony. A local magistrate soon threw out the case for lack of evidence, however.

## 'Jail, jail, and more jail'

The attorney general then convened a grand jury and succeeded in getting five workers—Jason Edgerton, Elijah Ford, Kenneth Jefferson, Ricky Simmons, and Peter Washington—reindicted on felony charges. Condon said his plan to deal with "union dockworker violence and attacks upon police officers" is "jail, jail, and more jail." A press release from his office called for no bail, no plea bargaining, and no leniency for the dockworkers. The five were kept under house arrest, not allowed out from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. except to work, for more than 18 months. Condon and other state officials justified this stance by saying it was necessary to uphold South Carolina's antiunion "right-to-work" laws.

The local daily *Post and Courier* chimed

## Contribute to the Pathfinder Fund!

Continued from front page readership of Pathfinder titles. They include the strike by 16,000 auto workers in Brazil; protests by immigrant workers and others against raids by federal agents in Minneapolis; the victory of the longshoremen's union in Charleston, South Carolina; and the growing interest in the Young Socialists in a number of countries.

This resistance by working people is unfolding as the U.S. imperialists prosecute a brutal war against the people of Afghanistan, seeking to take a big step toward

greater domination of the region, and as Washington drives ahead with its assault on workers' rights. More and more working people and youth can see where imperialism is taking humanity, and can appreciate the need to read and study as they deepen their participation in struggles.

With one month to go, the drive is beginning to get some wind in its sails. As of now, a little more than \$95,000 has been pledged with four weeks to go. In addition to stepping up the pace of collection of pledges, supporters of Pathfinder in every area can map out plans for winning new contributions and pledges to bridge the \$30,000 gap between the current total pledged and the international target.

Supporters in Brooklyn are drawing up an extended list of long-time readers of Pathfinder to talk to about the fund. Based on this initial work and list of possible contributors they have decided to raise their local goal to \$3,500.

## Fund appeal meetings

An event in Washington November 10 registered the efforts by supporters in the area. Participants in the meeting contributed \$530 over the original goal of \$2,000. Following that success they decided to raise their target to \$3,000. "We are confident that we can collect what has been pledged and raise the rest," the local fund director reported.

Meetings like the one in Washington present great political opportunities to discuss why the publication and distribution of Pathfinder titles today is so important. Workers and youth looking for an explanation of imperialism and its wars, and of the root causes of the crises continually bred by capitalism, and seeking discussion of the potential for revolutionary struggles today, will want to make a contribution to the fund.

Supporters in the Garment District in New York and in Upper Manhattan are expecting to get a boost to their efforts at fund events on November 16 and 17 featuring presentations by Steve Clark, Pathfinder's editorial director, on "The working class and the struggle against imperialism today: why workers, farmers and youth should oppose Washington's war on Afghanistan and attacks on our living and working conditions at home." Other fund events will take place that same weekend in San Francisco and Los Angeles.



Militant/Linda Joyce

Around 5,000 people participated in June 9 march in Columbia, South Carolina, to demand that the state drop its charges against five framed-up longshore workers.

in with a Jan. 21, 2000, editorial declaring that "those involved must know that with or without their approval, South Carolina remains a right-to-work state. Nonunion workers, by law, can load and unload nonunion ships at this port." The paper ran a feature spread entitled "Anatomy of a riot" which to this day is highlighted on their website.

Condon has continued to make inflammatory statements against the ILA, including smearing the union members as terrorists following the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

## Defense fight is example for labor

In response to this attack on the union, the longshoremen launched a militant defense campaign that set an example for the entire labor movement. ILA officials from Charleston traveled throughout the United States and to Europe, South Africa, and elsewhere explaining their fight and gaining support. From Atlanta to New York, Cleveland, and San Francisco, unionists, students, and others joined in rallies to support the Charleston Five.

Some 5,000 unionists and others marched to the state capitol in Columbia last June to demand the charges be dropped. Over the last few months bright yellow "Free the Charleston Five" signs went up all over working-class neighborhoods in the Charleston area, petitions called on the governor to drop the charges, and the case was highlighted at Labor Day celebrations this year and last.

The June 2001 rally for workers rights in Columbia, South Carolina, was a magnificent display of solidarity. It drew together thousands of workers from throughout the South and beyond, including many who had been through recent strikes and fights of their own, such as Steelworkers from Continental General Tire in Charlotte; members of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees from Hollander Home Fashions in Georgia and Pennsylvania. The rally registered the increasing confidence and resistance to the bosses' attacks in the least unionized part of this country.

In mid-April 2000, Nordana reached an agreement with the ILA for union members

to work on its ships under the terms of the union contract.

The dockworkers continued to join in other social struggles, such as the fight to remove the Confederate battle flag from atop the statehouse dome. Just days before the cops attacked their picket line, the ILA local in Charleston sent buses to a 50,000-strong Martin Luther King Day rally against this racist symbol.

In April 2000 another sizable contingent of dockworkers helped launch a march from Charleston to Columbia to protest the flag. In the face of such protests, the South Carolina legislature was forced to move the battle flag off the capitol dome, though it remains elsewhere on the statehouse grounds.

As the Charleston Five defense gained ground, a layer of politicians came to the conclusion that the prosecution was too politically costly. Charleston mayor Joseph Riley and others called for Condon to step aside from directly prosecuting the case, to allow it to be settled. He finally did so on October 10, handing the prosecution over to a Dorchester County solicitor just outside Charleston.

A few days later, the judge who was to try the case released the Charleston Five from their house arrest. This was shortly followed by the plea offer—even though Condon had sworn he would never allow a plea bargain. On November 7 two of the defendants pled no contest to misdemeanor charges and were sentenced to 30 days in jail, which was suspended upon payment of a \$100 fine. A similar arrangement for the remaining three will be made official November 13.

The longshoremen still face a civil lawsuit filed by the nonunion stevedoring outfit against ILA Local 1422. The suit claims financial damages and names 27 officers and members of the union. The ILA is seeking to organize workers employed by the company.

The union and its supporters will be holding victory celebrations in Charleston and several other cities in the coming weeks.

Naomi Craine is a member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees Local 1501.

## 'Free the five Cubans in U.S. jail'

### Continued from Page 2

in the jails of a nation where hostility by its authorities against our own is obvious. After a long and infamous trial directed by blatantly political objectives, methods and procedures, and overwhelmed by a deluge of maliciously concocted propaganda, we have decided to address the American people to let you know the truth, that we are the victims of a terrible injustice.

"We have been accused of endangering the security of the United States," they wrote, "and indicted of numerous charges, including crimes such as conspiracy to commit murder that could not, and cannot, be proven for they are false but for which we could be sentenced to dozens of years of imprisonment and even to life sentences."

The message pointed out that Cuba "has heroically survived four decades of aggression and threats to its national security, of subversive plans, sabotages and destabilization, has every right to defend itself from its enemies who keep using U.S. territory to plan, organize and finance terrorist actions..."

Jennifer Weger of Pastors for Peace gave

further details of the case, and noted the use of sedition and conspiracy laws against W.E.B. Dubois and other fighters against discrimination in the United States.

Martin Koppel, also active in the Free the Five campaign, said the frame-up was not only an attack by Washington on the Cuban revolution but also part of the assault on working people's rights at home.

Koppel noted the FBI's September 21 arrest of Ana Belen Montes, a U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency analyst on Cuban matters, on charges of providing classified material to the Cuban government. Montes is being held without bail. As with the Miami five, he said, the cops had gained their alleged evidence by accessing personal computer files and other violations of privacy. If convicted, she could face the death penalty.

The meeting included short videos in which Ricardo Alarcón, the president of the Cuban National Assembly, discussed aspects of the case, and family members of the five spoke in their defense. The event was chaired by Teresa Gutiérrez of the International Action Center.

## Pathfinder Fund

	Goal	Paid	%
<b>Tucson</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>85%</b>
Detroit	3,000	750	25%
Atlanta	3,200	700	22%
NY Garment District	5,000	1,065	21%
Houston	3,200	620	19%
Charlotte	3,650	700	19%
Upper Manhattan	3,500	558	16%
Brooklyn	3,000	475	16%
Birmingham	2,200	340	15%
Allentown	1,620	250	15%
Los Angeles	8,000	1,145	14%
Boston	4,000	500	13%
Chicago	6,000	650	11%
St. Paul	3,000	300	10%
Pittsburgh	4,000	275	7%
Newark	3,300	200	6%
Tampa	600	30	5%
Washington DC	3,000	150	5%
Miami	2,200	100	5%
San Francisco	8,000	300	4%
Seattle	8,000	60	1%
Cleveland	1,500	0	0%
Des Moines	1,400	0	0%
Omaha	585	0	0%
Philadelphia	3,000	0	0%
Western Colorado	3,200	0	0%
Other	0	962	
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>88,305</b>	<b>10,258</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Australia</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>New Zealand</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>4,774</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>France</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Iceland</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Int'l Total</b>	<b>95,619</b>	<b>10,915</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Total Should be</b>	<b>125,000</b>	<b>68,750</b>	<b>55%</b>



# Sales campaign responds to Afghan war

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Campaigners in the circulation drive to win new readers to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* are using the publications to respond to the accelerating assaults on workers' rights in the United States, such as the plans announced by the U.S. government to use military tribunals to prosecute noncitizens and test the waters on use of sedition laws. The participants in the international circulation drive are taking the periodicals to workers and young people to explain the latest stage of imperialist aggression in Afghanistan and Central Asia.

The *Militant* has received reports from areas across the country indicating the potential for winning new recruits to the communist movement among workers and youth. Many of them are interested in getting a paper that presents scientific explanations and facts about Washington's war in Afghanistan. Reading the *Militant* each week is one of the best ways to deepen political education and strengthen the capacity to fight imperialism.

Our eight-week circulation campaign is in its final seven days, and partisans of the socialist periodicals and *New Internationalist* are using every one of them to meet local and international goals.

Joe Swanson from Des Moines said socialist workers in that city are taking advantage of the growing thirst among young people who seek answers to the instability and social devastation wrought by capitalism. "We called a number of youth who bought *Militant* subscriptions in the last few weeks and talked with them about buying copies of *New Internationalist*. We also invited them to come to see a film about the Russian Revolution. Some of them plan on purchasing one or two issues of the Marxist magazine."

Swanson said they boosted their subscription campaign during the target week selling two *Militant* subscriptions to meat packers, one on a college campus, and three going door-to-door in a workers district in the city. This past week they sent in eight *Militant* subscriptions and eight *PM* subscriptions, which put them on a course to make all their goals. "We plan to get back to Amana, Iowa, where workers on strike are voting on their contract. Some of us who work in meatpacking plants are taking off work to sell subscriptions and Pathfinder titles on a campus where we learned from a student about a day of action against the war."

## Students show serious interest

From Atlanta, José Aravena wrote, "This was the second week in a row that we sent a sales team to Atlanta University. We met three students who showed serious interest in our literature. One of them who came to the Militant Labor Forum later that evening had bought a *Militant* subscription, a copy of *New Internationalist* no. 10, featuring the article 'Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War,' and *By Any Means Necessary* by Malcolm X. The following day he joined us in a demonstration protesting the war in Afghanistan, and said he is also interested in attending the November 17-18 meeting of the Young Socialists planned in Chicago." Aravena said they have gained momentum over the past week sending in 10 *Militant* subscriptions and seven *PM* subscriptions, which has propelled them toward success in the circulation drive.

"Last Friday, November 9, more than 300 overwhelm-

ingly young demonstrators marched from Carnegie Mellon University to the University of Pittsburgh chanting, 'What do we want? Stop the war! When do we want it? Now!'" wrote Kathie Fitzgerald from Pittsburgh. "We set up a table of Pathfinder books and pamphlets that was surrounded by students checking it out. A leader of the Arab Student Organization bought a subscription to the *Militant* as well as *NI* no. 10. He bought the *NI* because he wanted to understand how capitalism works."

Fitzgerald added, "Socialists here are finding that young people getting involved in protesting Washington's war against Afghanistan are eager for an explanation of imperialist war and excited to find a newspaper like the *Militant*. Of the 10 subscriptions sold during the target week here, seven were purchased at the antiwar demonstration and one by a garment worker. We also sold 50 copies of the *Militant* that week."

These efforts are examples of what can be done in the final days of the drive to end with a strong finish. Some people who bought the paper have sent in subscriptions after reading it. Over the course of the circulation drive the *Militant* business office has received coupons filled out from page 2 from a number of areas, including four from New Jersey, three from the Los Angeles area, four from San Francisco, and three from the state of Washington.

## Paper route subscriptions

A number of people who purchased individual copies of the *Militant* have told supporters that they would get a subscription if they could get the paper delivered every week or pick it up on the job or at weekly Militant Labor Forums, instead of through the U.S. mail. In response, distributors are beginning to sell subscriptions that will be delivered through paper routes, or on the job, or at the weekly forums. New readers who are interested in getting a subscription can contact *Militant* supporters at the addresses listed on page 12.

As a final reminder, the *Militant* will count on the final scoreboard all subscriptions received at the business office in New York by Wednesday, November 21 at 12:00 noon.



BY ALICE KINCAID  
AND LEA SHERMAN

WORLAND, Wyoming—Two *Militant* supporters teamed up to travel to Worland, Wyoming, and Greeley and Colorado Springs, Colorado, over four days. In Worland, in the northern part of Wyoming, three workers bought subscriptions to the *Militant* and seven others each purchased a copy of the paper. Worland is the site of a six-month-long strike against Crown, Cork and Seal, one of the largest manufacturers of aluminum cans in the world.

The team sold the *Militant* at the Holly Sugar plant at shift break on the morning of November 12. Holly Sugar produces cane sugar from sugar beets that are grown by farmers in this area. Many workers stopped to talk. We pointed out that the *Militant* covers workers' struggles, including the strike at Crown, and also explained that it opposes the U.S. war against Afghanistan. One worker wrote a check for a subscription on the spot. Several

seasonal workers at the plant gate told us they were strikers at Crown, Cork and Seal and bought the paper.

The seasonal workers are hired from September until December, make 50 percent less than the "permanent" workers, and receive no medical benefits. One of them stopped his vehicle at the side of the road, came over and said, "Well, I'm a striker and if you can come all the way from Colorado, I can buy a paper."

After the sale at the sugar plant the team went to the picket shack at Crown, Cork and Seal and spoke to several strikers for a follow-up story. Another striker on the picket line agreed to get a *Militant* subscription after we pointed out an earlier article in the paper on their fight and also on the Brookwood mine explosion in Alabama.

When we returned to Holly Sugar to sell the *Militant* to workers during the afternoon shift change, one of them, who was also a striker who had bought a paper in the morning, stopped to talk and said he was going back to the picket shack. We went back to meet him there and had a lengthy discussion with him, his wife, and another striker. He ended up buying a subscription.

The next day the team headed to the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, where we set up a table outside the university center and sold a *Militant* subscription, six papers, and two Pathfinder titles, *To Speak the Truth*, and *Revolution in the Congo*. So far the team has sold four subscriptions to the *Militant* and 13 copies of the paper. We plan to travel to Colorado College to set up a literature table and meet with students there.

## Militant/Perspectiva Mundial subscription campaign—week 7 Sept. 22–Nov. 18

Country	Militant			PM		NI	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
Sweden*	18	18	100%	4	4	12	14
Canada							
Vancouver	15	14	93%	3	4	20	7
Montreal	12	11	92%	5	4	20	11
Toronto	17	10	59%	5	1	17	11
Canada total	44	35	80%	13	9	57	29
United Kingdom	35	27	77%	10	10	20	17
Australia	16	12	75%	4	3	16	11
United States							
Twin Cities*	45	43	96%	20	30	30	17
Des Moines	30	26	87%	20	20	15	8
Tucson	7	6	86%	1	1	6	1
Charlotte	16	13	81%	6	2	25	6
Atlanta	36	29	81%	15	12	35	7
Detroit	35	28	80%	10	7	30	13
Seattle	25	19	76%	10	6	25	18
Miami	20	15	75%	20	6	25	17
Upper Manhattan	65	48	74%	50	22	40	19
Houston	30	22	73%	15	4	45	15
Western Colorado	30	20	67%	8	6	15	4
Los Angeles	50	33	66%	30	11	25	21
Omaha	11	7	64%	15	8	10	11
Boston	27	17	63%	11	7	25	37
Newark	45	27	60%	30	7	30	8
NY Garment Dist.	100	56	56%	50	22	55	32
Chicago	45	24	53%	30	7	35	11
San Francisco	50	25	50%	25	17	40	17
Washington	25	12	48%	20	7	10	3
Brooklyn	60	27	45%	30	19	70	37
Cleveland	25	11	44%	4	4	20	14
Tampa	12	5	42%	5	3	14	10
Allentown	25	10	40%	5	4	10	6
Philadelphia	25	10	40%	10	5	20	2
Pittsburgh	40	16	40%	5	0	25	4
Birmingham	20	6	30%	3	5	20	2
U.S. total	899	555	62%	448	242	700	340
New Zealand							
Christchurch	7	4	57%	1	0	3	1
Auckland	10	5	50%	1	1	8	4
N.Z. total	17	9	53%	2	1	11	5
Iceland	8	4	50%	2	0		
Int'l totals	1037	660	60%	483	269	737	416
Goal/Should be	1100	957	87%	500	435	800	696

## Upgrades made to Pathfinder web press

BY LAURA ANDERSON  
AND GERARDO SANCHEZ

NEW YORK—Capital Fund contributions are making possible two significant laborsaving upgrades to the four-unit Goss Community press in Pathfinder's print shop. This press is used to print the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, Pathfinder books and catalogue, and other commercial work.

The web crew worked closely with a technician for two

days in the last week of October to install the new computerized Disc Break Tensioning System. The system synchronizes the speed of the four units of the press, an essential step in running jobs with more than one color. The installation included a day of on-the-job training.

Before the installation of the new system, press operators had to pay constant attention to the paper tension to maintain print quality. Manual adjustments were necessary as the paper rolls were consumed and became smaller.

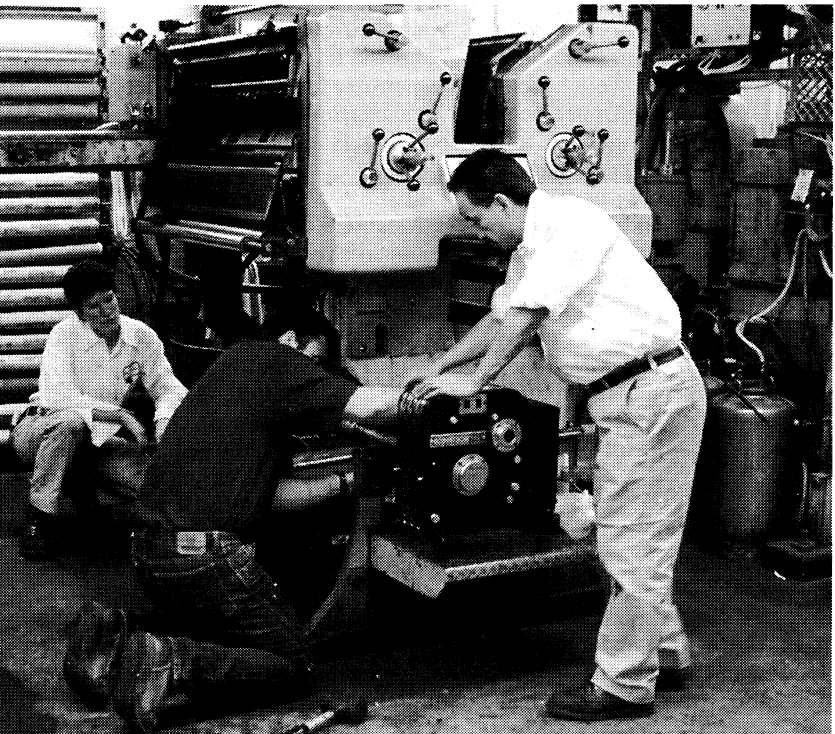
The new system does this automatically, allowing the press operators to focus their attention on boosting the print quality, along with training.

The new system enables the printshop to lower costs by cutting down on labor, since two-person crews can now run many jobs, reducing paper waste, and lessening the training time needed to learn tension control. Previously considered one of the hardest things for new trainees to learn, tension control is now the easiest.

In addition, a new Compensating Stacker is scheduled for delivery the third week of November. The stacker automatically jogs the printed product, eliminating the need for a crew member to do this work, called "flying" in the trade, by hand.

Contributions to the Capital Fund help make possible advances such as these and others that are still needed in Pathfinder's printshop. Anyone with \$1,000 or more to contribute to this important effort is encouraged to make a pledge. To find out how to contribute, write to the Capital Fund, 410 West St. New York, N.Y. 10014.

IN THE UNIONS							
	Militant			PM		NI	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
New Zealand							
NDU	2	1	50%			1	0
MWU	2	1	50%			2	0
Total	4	2	50%			3	0
United States							
UAW	5	6	120%			4	1
UFCW	55	34	62%	55	50	70	38
UNITE	35	11	31%	35	10	55	9
UMWA	20	4	20%	2	0	15	3
Total	110	55	50%	92	60	140	50
Australia							
AMIEU	3	2	67%			1	1
MUA*	2	0	0%			5	3
Total	5	2	40%				
Canada							
UFCW	5	1	20%	1	0	8	4
UNITE	5	0	0%	2	3	3	0
Total	10	1	10%	3	3	11	4
raised goal *							



Militant/Greg McCartan

Web press operators at Pathfinder printshop assist technician installing computerized tensioning system that saves labor and production costs.

# Washington sets up next stage of Afghan war

Continued from front page

and the use of antipersonnel cluster bombs, has given the imperialists a partial victory in their brutal war. But they do not control the country, since many of the Taliban forces have retreated to more remote and mountainous areas in the south.

The opening of U.S. military bases in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan—the first ever on the soil of the former Soviet Republics—marks a new stage in Washington's drive to gain a military foothold in Central Asia. As Washington prosecutes the war, the British, German, Italian, and Japanese imperialists are increasing their military commitments to the assault.

With the taking of Kabul by Northern Alliance forces, U.S. elite troops have begun landing at the Bagram military base near that city, reports the Pakistani newspaper *Dawn*. Washington has had about 100 commandos on the ground working with the Alliance forces, including troops "who apparently wear no uniforms [but] have set up a camp in Dara-i-Suf, a remote village in the mountains south of Mazar-i-Sharif," reports the *New York Times*. U.S. commandos are also operating in south-central Afghanistan and around the Taliban stronghold of Kandahar.

The Russian government, headed by Vladimir Putin, has become a key ally in helping U.S. imperialism further its military aims in the region. Moscow has supported Washington's assault on Afghanistan and backed the deployment of U.S. troops to the former Soviet republics of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, provided invaluable intelligence information to U.S. military authorities, and given weapons worth tens of millions of dollars to the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance.

New multiple rocket launchers, small arms and mortars, trucks, and other equipment from Russia have poured into Afghanistan for use by the Northern Alliance forces. Photographs of Alliance troops operating evidently new Russian tanks have appeared in several newspapers.

Putin has also offered Russia—the world's third-largest oil producer—as a long-term supplier of oil and gas to the U.S. economy. A strong foothold in the Central Asia would give the U.S. rulers the ability to tap into and control the vast oil and natural gas resources in the Caspian Sea area, and establish pipelines through Afghanistan and Pakistan.

This new, "very different relationship" with Moscow, noted Condoleezza Rice, the president's national security adviser, "will be based on growing economic ties and an expanded role for Russia in the West's security." In a three-day meeting with George Bush in both Washington and Crawford, Texas, Putin sought to further cement these ties.

The Russian president has offered support for amending the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty, thus allowing Washington to proceed with its plans to build a missile defense system. The two leaders agreed to significantly reduce the number of nuclear weapons in their arsenals. Bush announced a unilateral cut of two-thirds of U.S. missiles over the next 10 years to between 1,700 and 2,200 warheads. Putin said that he planned similar cuts. Washington currently has 7,300 such weapons and Russia 6,100.

## Taliban forces retreat from main cities

Over the course of a five-day period from November 9 to 13 Taliban forces abandoned their control of the strategic northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, the capital city of Kabul, and a number of other cities and towns across northern Afghanistan. The opposition Northern Alliance moved in swiftly to take control of this entire section of the country.

In a November 11 communication, Mullah Muhammad Omar, the Taliban's central leader, ordered his troops to withdraw from these cities in order to preserve their forces and halt the U.S. bombardment of Afghan cities. "Defending the cities with front lines that can be targeted from the air will cause us terrible loss," he stated.

Washington is moving rapidly to put in place military troops under UN cover to take charge in Kabul. Turkey, Jordan, Indonesia, and Bangladesh have all offered troops as part of a "Muslim-led force"—in reality, troops that will serve imperialist interests. Contrary to promises they had made earlier to Washington that they would surround but not enter Kabul until a more broad-based U.S.-backed government could be put in place, Northern Alliance troops have occu-



Italian special forces train for house-to-house fighting. Imperialist powers are lining up to join war as Washington prepares next stage in assault on Afghan people.

pied all major government buildings in the city and are patrolling the streets.

As the Northern Alliance entered the cities of Mazar-i-Sharif and Kabul, the capitalist media has reported extensive looting, abductions of civilians, and summary executions. Cable News Network reported that about 600 people had been killed by Alliance troops, the majority of them Pakistani and Kashmiri fighters.

The Pentagon has begun to make use of one airfield near Mazar-i-Sharif and another just north of Kabul as bases of operation. U.S. military engineers have begun work on making the land route from Uzbekistan into northern Afghanistan more usable for the transport of heavy military equipment as well as troops.

Washington is also in the middle of a major construction project to upgrade and expand the Khanabad air base in Uzbekistan, where 1,500 to 2,000 U.S. troops are currently stationed. A large compound is under construction to house these troops and a \$2 million "perimeter improvement project" is also under way. According to reports from local residents, Uzbek police agencies have forbidden people who live near the base to have guests in their homes, supposedly as a security precaution.

In addition, the Pentagon has secured the use of three military air bases in neighboring Tajikistan. One of them is being readied for immediate use for U.S. combat missions. A senior military officer stated that Gen. Tom Franks, the U.S. commander for the war against Afghanistan, has prepared a group of 50 to 70 additional aircraft to be stationed in Tajikistan. Basing planes there

could triple the daily rate of bombing raids Washington conducts over the area to close to 300 sorties.

The U.S. air forces are continuing their bombardment of Taliban forces in retreat to Kandahar and the country's mountains—an assault that is similar in approach to the "turkey shoot" the U.S. military carried out in Iraq in 1991 among retreating Iraqi troops on the road to Basra. Rumsfeld described the retreating Taliban forces as "attractive targets." Since the start of the bombing campaign in early October more than 8,000 bombs—some as large as 5,000 to 15,000 pounds—have been dropped on Afghanistan.

## 'A killing zone'

While additional U.S. Special Operations forces are operating freely in southern Afghanistan, plans are openly being discussed for deploying a significantly larger U.S. ground force there. An article in the *Wall Street Journal* suggests Washington "seize an airfield in the south" that "could be used as a kind of magnet" to draw Taliban troops into "a killing zone." Estimates for conducting such an operation range from 2,000 to 15,000 troops.

Washington now has more than 50,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines deployed in the region stretching from the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean. The number of National Guardsmen and reservists mobilized for action since September 11 has risen to nearly 53,000.

Some two dozen U.S. warships are operating in the North Arabian Sea, including nuclear-powered submarines and three aircraft carriers—the USS *Theodore Roosevelt*,

USS *Kitty Hawk*, and USS *Carl Vinson*. A fourth aircraft, the USS *John Stennis*, which set sail for the Arabian Sea November 12 with 8,500 sailors and marines on board, will also add to the hundreds of fighter jets that can be deployed for more bombing raids.

Washington has agreements that allow it to use military facilities inside countries controlled by six of the monarchies reigning in the Gulf state region—Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates. Bahrain, an island whose southern half is taken up by military installations, serves as the headquarters of the U.S. Navy Fifth Fleet and the logistics-and-command center for the aircraft carriers in the northern Arabian Sea that launch most of the U.S. bombing raids.

## Other imperialist powers pledge troops

While the overwhelming majority of bombing attacks have been carried out by U.S. forces, with a close supporting role played by Britain, other imperialist powers, anxious to join the fray, are offering troops and military equipment.

London has put thousands of troops on 48-hour standby for possible duty in Kabul and other newly-captured Afghan cities. British defense secretary Geoffrey Hoon publicly confirmed November 11 that British troops are also operating inside Afghanistan alongside those from the United States.

The German government has assigned 3,900 soldiers, including 100 special operations officers, to take part in the country's first military deployment outside Europe since World War II.

They have also pledged special armored vehicles, field hospitals and medical evacuation units, air transport facilities, and ships to patrol sea traffic lanes. The Green party joined its coalition partner, the Social Democratic Party, in backing this troop deployment, although it was not clear that all Greens would vote in favor in parliament. German defense minister Rudolph Scharping described the broad scope of this deployment as being in "the Arabian peninsula, middle and central Asia, and northeast Africa and neighboring sea regions."

The Italian parliament voted to deploy a force of 2,700 for use in land, sea, and air operations, including house-to-house fighting. Some 1,000 of these ground troops are scheduled to be assigned to the security operations of any post-Taliban regime.

Tokyo has sent 1,000 troops and three destroyers to the Indian Ocean to transport supplies for U.S. forces in the Indian Ocean, the first such use of Japanese troops abroad since World War II. While having taken steps to send troops into action abroad in a non-combat role, the three leading ruling parties in Japan are now also seeking to dispatch its "self-defense" forces as full participants in UN military occupation forces.

# New York cops rack up \$1.7 billion in overtime

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK—Among those reaping big bucks in the aftermath of the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center are the 40,000 members of the New York Police Department. They've racked up nearly \$1.7 billion in overtime pay so far this fiscal year. This figure is equal to the entire budget of the Philadelphia school system and five times what the city spent on overtime for cops last year.

Because the cops' pensions are based on what they earned in their last 12 months with the department, many are cashing in while the going is good. The average cop made \$50,000 extra this year, translating into a nice padding for the retirement package of the brutes in blue.

And don't think for a moment they haven't earned the money officially piling up in their bank accounts from paychecks received from the city (there's no tally on other sources of income). Trying to stay awake while sitting in cop cars that block both ends of streets in front and back of all the city's police stations 24 hours a day; standing in groups on street corners while the weather was warm, looking for someone to mess with; harassing immigrants and checking IDs; racing around the Big Apple with sirens blaring, acting like they own the streets; and providing bodyguards for bigwigs—it's all just pushing the bullies to the limit, news stories say.

The added expenditures, officials note, are expected to boost the city's budget deficit to as much as \$4 billion next year, but, they say, it's essential for security.

Signaling more attacks on working people, mayor-elect Michael Bloomberg paid visits after election day to the heads of two of the city's major unions—Randi Weingarten, president of the 80,000-member United Federation of Teachers, and Lee Saunders, administrator of District 37, the city's largest municipal union. The teachers have been working without a contract since November 2000 and have refused to accept the concessionary package on wages and hours demanded by the Giuliani administration.

"Beyond the potential pressure of negotiating a contract," noted the *New York Times*, "Mr. Bloomberg may find himself returning to these unions to push for cost-cutting concessions that could help him balance New York's books."

## Network's prowar coverage

In another development, the president of Cable News Network (CNN), Walter Isaacson, issued a warning to CNN reporters not to present too much of the truth about the impact of the U.S. assault on Afghanistan.

Isaacson's memo instructs CNN journalists who air footage of scenes of destruction wrought by U.S. bombs on Afghan villages and cities to then always "talk about how the Taliban have harbored the terror-

ists responsible for killing close to 5,000 innocent people."

Daniel Schorr, senior news analyst for National Public Radio, expressed his objections to this policy in a recent debate on this topic sponsored by the Brookings Institution. "You ask, let us remind you these people are responsible for killing 5,000 people," he said. "Which people? The people in this destroyed building. Is it relevant?"

## Figures on detainees to be withheld

Meanwhile, the Justice Department announced November 8 that it will no longer publicly issue a running tally of the number of people cop agencies have taken into custody around the country since September 11. In early November the department had admitted to detaining 1,182 people. Federal authorities have never made public the names of those detained, where they are being held, or the reason for their arrests. Not a single one of these individuals have been charged with anything having to do with the September 11 attack.

Under the federal government's new policy, officials will now only provide figures on how many people are being held at any given time on charges of violating immigration laws and how many are in federal custody. It will say nothing about what is the largest group of detainees—those rounded up by FBI agents and other state and local police agencies.



# Washington seeks closer ties with India

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

"My administration is committed to developing a fundamentally different relationship with India," said U.S. president George Bush November 9, following talks with Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Indian prime minister. Vajpayee responded by saying that he admires Bush's "decisive leadership" in the U.S. war on Afghanistan.

The talks in Washington are part of moves by U.S. imperialism to push for wider military, economic, and diplomatic ties with India, a country of 1 billion people. Top U.S. officials have visited New Delhi in recent months, including a trip in late October by U.S. secretary of defense Donald Rumsfeld. His visit "seemed meant to reassure India that the intense American partnership with Pakistan, India's arch-rival, will not come at India's expense," observed the November 6 *New York Times*. A Defense Policy Group of military officials from the two countries is scheduled to discuss closer cooperation at meetings beginning in December, reported the paper.

For several decades after India's independence from Britain in 1947, the ruling bourgeois Congress Party had portrayed itself as the party of the poor and used socialist rhetoric to maintain support among masses of workers and peasants. India joined the Non-Aligned Movement and signed economic and military pacts with Moscow. This served the Stalinist regime in Russia, as it sought to gain diplomatic leverage in the region, both against U.S. imperialism and its rivals in Beijing.

In 1976 the United States was India's largest trade partner, and U.S. companies had \$345 million invested in the country as of 1974. But Washington had to rely on Pakistan—smaller, more politically unstable, and economically less developed than India—as its chief military ally in the region.

In the decade following the fall of the Stalinist regimes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, Washington set a course to upgrade its relations with India, and the possibilities for more extensive investment, exploitation of cheap labor, and markets for products "Made in the USA."

## U.S. drops sanctions

U.S. president William Clinton first gave this effort a high profile with a March 2000 visit to the country, followed by the Bush administration's decision in September 2001 to lift economic and military sanctions imposed upon India after its government detonated five underground nuclear warheads in

May 1998. Sanctions on Pakistan following similar tests have also been lifted.

Given the instability in Pakistan, Washington has set up a special unit of 2,200 troops on an assault ship in the Indian Ocean capable of launching a strike into Pakistan to grab the country's nuclear weapons if the Musharraf regime is threatened.

The capitalist rulers of Pakistan and India are bitter rivals, having fought three wars since the two countries were carved out of what was British colonial India in 1947. This division was imposed by British imperialism as part of its divide-and-rule tactics in the face of a powerful independence struggle in which the country's industrial proletariat played a leading part.

Their conflict over Kashmir has sparked two of the wars. New Delhi currently occupies two-thirds of Kashmir and Islamabad controls one-third. This disputed area is the scene of a long-standing struggle by working people for independence from both powers.

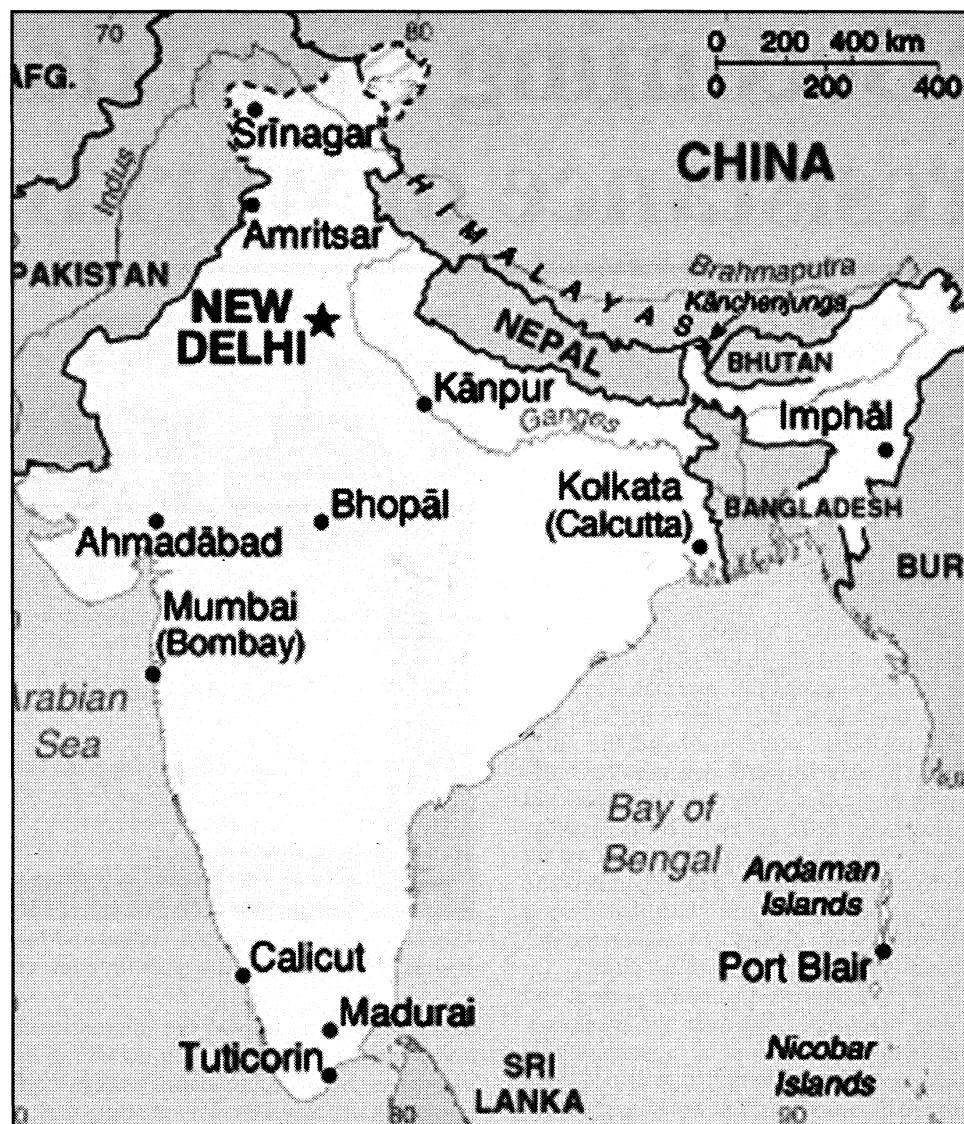
After the U.S. rulers began its war drive against Afghanistan in September, Washington has backed steps by New Delhi to suppress Kashmiri independence organizations. For example, U.S. attorney general John Ashcroft has recommended that Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-i-Muhammad, Pakistan-based organizations that fight under the banner of Kashmiri independence and have clashed with Indian forces, be included in Washington's list of so-called "terrorist" organizations. Previously Washington had added Harkat ul-Mujaheddin, another Pakistan-based group, to the list.

The Indian military's war in Kashmir has claimed tens of thousands of lives in the last decade, including 800 so far this year.

## India the greater prize

Although Washington is cultivating closer ties with both countries, India is the more important economic and strategic prize for the imperialists, by virtue of its size and greater degree of industrial development. It is home to more than a billion people, one-third of whom are under 15 years of age. India is a substantial producer of agricultural commodities and industrial goods, in addition to possessing extensive mineral reserves. Its Gross Domestic Product in 1996 of \$1.54 trillion dwarfs that of Pakistan, which had an output of \$296.5 billion.

Pakistan's population stands at 145 million and the extent of industrial development is low. This extreme lopsidedness of its economy is shown by the fact that its 3.5



million textile workers—tens of thousands of whom face unemployment as U.S. markets shrink—make up 60 percent of its industrial workforce.

Almost one-fifth of India's exports go to the United States, which is also the source of 10 percent of its imports and its largest trading partner. This two-way commerce is increasing, and India is being touted as a source of high profits as its government accelerates the introduction of "reforms," aimed at opening up the economy to foreign investment and competition.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that foreign institutional investors bought \$748 million worth of Indian stocks in the four weeks to January 23 of this year—equal to half of the investment over the previous 12 months. The level of investment over the year to March 31, however, was only around one-tenth of the amount that flowed into China.

U.S. capitalists also benefit from the labor of scientists and professionals educated in India. Around one-third of the software engineers in Silicon Valley on the West Coast of the United States are immigrants from

India.

The Indian government opened up share holdings to foreigners in 1993. Today, outside investors are allowed to own up to 26 percent of a company, a problem from the point of view of the imperialist powers. As well, India is still saddled with the legacy of precapitalist society and colonial exploitation. Commodities sell at different prices from one region to the next and products are taxed as they are transported internally across state borders.

Before New Delhi began a series of privatization and liberalization measures in the 1990s, a wide range of tariffs and other *swadeshi* (nationalist) policies afforded Indian producers a degree of insulation in the face of competition from the imperialist economies and competitors in the more industrialized semicolonial countries. With the aid of these protections, India was able to become self-sufficient in food production and develop its industrial capacity.

## Rulers press 'reforms'

New Delhi's application to join the World Trade Organization has provided a spur to further "reform" measures. On March 31 the government officially abolished tariffs on a list of 715 imports, in conformity with WTO rules. While the move was presented as a step towards modernization and greater "consumer choice," many refused to celebrate.

"For many Indian farmers and manufacturers...the new liberal import policies are a source of uncertainty and worry," reported the *Washington Post*. "Many Indian products are made in small, family-owned workshops that cannot compete with global prices, while most farmers own less than two acres of land and are accustomed to selling their crops at a minimum guaranteed price."

Leaders of farmers' organizations warned that their crops would not be able to compete with overseas commodities. "Seventy percent of Indians depend on farming in some way," said a member of parliament from a farming district. "Our farmers are not prepared, they depend on nature, and they cannot shift easily" to mechanized agriculture.

Many working people in India remain desperately poor. The World Bank estimates that the number of people living on less than \$1 a day increased from 300 million in the 1980s to 340 million in 1997. More than half the country's children are underweight and undernourished.

Attacks on workers' wages and conditions, along with moves to privatize the steel and other industries, have sparked major strikes and protests by workers. At the same time, the government has recently floated a proposal to eliminate the reach of labor legislation, which includes some protections for workers, into newly created "export-oriented zones."

# Four killed in protests in Pakistan

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Thousands of people demonstrated in cities throughout Pakistan November 9 to protest the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan. The Pakistan Afghan Defense Council (PADC), a coalition of 35 Islamic parties, had called for a nationwide strike to protest the imperialist bombing campaign. The action was planned to coincide with the arrival of Pakistan's president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, in the United States to attend the UN General Assembly session.

Musharraf, who seized power in a coup in 1999, has opened Pakistani military bases and airspace to Washington in its imperialist assault on Afghanistan.

"Not only Pakistan, but the entire Muslim world is feeling greater hatred toward the United States," said Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, secretary general of the Jamaat-e-Islami religious party. Musharraf has become America's personal slave, and the people reject it."

According to BBC News, four people were killed when Pakistani cops shot at 5,000 demonstrators who had blocked a railway line in the town of Shahdan Lund, 350 miles southwest of the capital Islamabad. Dozens of people were injured and hundreds arrested in the cities of Rawalpindi, Peshawar, and Quetta. In Peshawar and Rawalpindi, a large city about 15 miles from Islamabad, hundreds of riot cops fired tear gas at protesters.

Some people who did not participate in the protests were angry about the military assault on Afghanistan. "Everyone condemns this [war]," Hussain, a government

worker in Islamabad, told a reporter for the *Washington Post*. "We may not like these religious groups or come out in the streets, but our feelings are there."

## Regime shuts down Afghan consulate

Under pressure from Washington, the Pakistani regime has responded to the rising discontent by shutting the Afghan consulate in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, November 7 and with a crackdown on PADC leaders and other protesters. The previous day the Pakistani government told Afghanistan's ambassador, Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef, to "observe the diplomatic norms" and stop holding press conferences at the Afghan embassy to denounce the U.S. government for its bombing of the country. Zaeef used the news conferences to describe the extent of the damage to his country caused by Washington's bombing campaign and charged the U.S. government with "genocide, atrocities, and terrorism, for its bombing, and to announce figures for civilian casualties from the air attacks." The Afghan government was also warned that its consulates in Quetta and Peshawar would also be shut down if "diplomatic norms" weren't followed.

The clampdown on diplomatic activities and public access "was done under very strong pressure," said Zaeef. "We wanted to convey our message to the world, the truth of Afghanistan, the killing of civilians. The Americans say the Taliban tells lies. We say the Americans tell lies."

On the eve of the nationwide actions, the

military government deployed the army in the streets of major cities and arrested more than 100 religious leaders. The chairman of the PADC, Maulana Samiul Haq, who is a vocal supporter of the Taliban regime, was put under house arrest November 10. Two other prominent religious leaders have also been detained by government authorities, including Qazi Hussain Ahmed, head of the country's largest Islamic party, Jamaat-e-Islami. The PADC issued another call for nationwide protests on November 16 to press for release of its leaders and others who were arrested.

The regime has also deported 142 Afghan refugees who reportedly participated in protests against the war. The government and UN officials have warned refugees to stay away from demonstrations or else they would be deported and lose their refugee status.

Pakistani workers have been confronting sharp assaults on their living standards. For example, over the last three years some 1,200 workers at two sugar mills have been laid off. Bosses at the two mills, which are run by retired military officers, slashed the wages of workers by more than 50 percent.

Meanwhile, reflecting nervousness about the growing opposition to the imperialist air strikes against the Afghan people, Pakistan's military ruler called on Washington to suspend its bombing campaign during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which begins on November 17. "It is being perceived in the whole world, as if this is a war against the poor, miserable, innocent people of Afghanistan," he said in Paris November 9.

# 'Becoming more deeply connected to resistance of working class' in Sweden

BY JOHAN NILSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—Building on experiences in the international class struggle over the past year, and with a new generation of communist youth stepping forward, members of the Communist League (CL) and Young Socialists here discussed a course to deepen the proletarianization of the two organizations in a series of meetings October 26–28.

Speaking for the Young Socialists at a public meeting October 26, Kristoffer Schultz said young people play a big role in the struggle against the imperialist system. The Congress of the Communist League held over that same weekend, he said, "shows a way forward in becoming more deeply connected to the working class and its resistance to the offensive by the wealthy rulers at home and abroad. The steps we are discussing this weekend will help us become more a part of the only class that from a historical point of view can take on the imperialists and win: the working class."

In a pre-congress discussion period, and at the meetings held over the weekend, members of the communist movement here made several decisions that will put them more in the middle of the working-class resistance in Sweden; strengthen their ability to reach workers, farmers, and youth with the working-class perspectives and program contained in Pathfinder books, the *Militant*, and *Perspectiva Mundial*; and recruit to the two organizations.

All members of the Communist League and Young Socialists decided to work together to build two new industrial union fractions in sections of the working class they are currently not in contact with. Another move to widen the CL's contact with layers of workers and farmers is establishing an organizing committee in a city outside of Stockholm.

Building on their common experiences over the past year and the discussions at the congress, members of the Communist League and Young Socialists also decided to hold a second session of the meeting in early December to assess these moves and consider a fusion of the two revolutionary organizations.

Some 40 people attended the public meeting in a community center near the local Pathfinder bookstore. The meeting was entitled, "The imperialist war against Afghani-



Workers in Kumla, Sweden, rallied on March 31 against layoffs by Ericsson. Class struggle is sharpening around the globe in context of imperialist war against the Afghan people.

stan and the building of the international communist movement in an accelerating war drive." Many in attendance were in their late teens or early 20s. The meeting had a wealth of international participation, and many supporters of the communist movement in Sweden joined in, including by preparing food for the participants.

In addition to Schultz, speakers at the meeting included Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *New Internationalist* and a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, and Olympia Newton, a member of the Young Socialists National Executive Committee, both from the United States; Michel Prairie, the editor of *Nouvelle Internationale* and a leader of the Communist League in Canada; and Catharina Tirsén, of the Central Committee of the Communist League in Sweden.

## 'Sharpening class struggle'

The remarks by Waters, who was the featured speaker, focused on the "sharpening class struggle in virtually every country around the globe as the pace of politics rapidly accelerates in response to the imperialist war against the Afghan people."

Catharina Tirsén noted the outspoken support for the imperialist war in Afghanistan by the social democratic Swedish prime minister, Göran Persson. She also took up

the demand being raised by various radical forces that the United Nations play a bigger role in "the war against terrorism."

"That demand simply recognizes the imperialists, including the Swedish imperialists, have a right to intervene in politics around the world," Tirsén said.

She pointed out the real role of the United Nations "peacekeeping missions" as advancing the interests of the imperialists, including the disarming of the newly independent government of Patrice Lumumba in the Congo in the 1960s and how Swedish UN troops stood by when Lumumba was captured and eventually murdered by counter-revolutionary forces.

The Congress of the Communist League took place amidst a deepening economic crisis of capitalism in Sweden, with tens of thousands already thrown out of work. Attacks on health care, protests against racist violence, a growth in fascist organizations, and attempts to squeeze concessions from workers on the job are aspects of this crisis and growing political polarization that mark politics in Sweden today.

The acceleration of trends in world politics and the class struggle with the launching of the U.S. war drive against Afghanistan means "there are even bigger opportunities now than in late August to build the

communist movement," Carl-Erik Isacson said at the congress.

Soon after the U.S. initiated its war moves in early September, CL and YS members helped organize a booth of Pathfinder literature at a large book fair in Gothenburg, located in the south of Sweden. The capitalist rulers of Sweden had quickly moved to use the war drive to bolster their own assault on working people at home. Both of these developments helped make the display of revolutionary literature published and distributed by Pathfinder a pole of attraction for workers and many young people.

Over the weekend the team of socialist workers and Young Socialists, including one from the United Kingdom who joined the effort, set up literature tables in downtown Gothenburg that became a real hot spot of discussion. Sales at the book fair reached an all-time high this year, with the newly published pamphlet in Swedish, *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*, topping the list.

Sales at the book fair were also confirmation that the efforts of the communist movement in Sweden over the past decade to translate and publish a growing number of Marxist titles published by Pathfinder on the evolution of world politics and the possibilities for building proletarian parties is increasingly bearing fruit among workers and young people in the country.

Isacson described the response in the week before the congress to a team selling the *Militant* door-to-door in the workers district surrounding the newly established Pathfinder bookstore. In less than an hour, six workers bought single copies of the paper and two subscribed. These are examples, Isacson said, of the interest in a working-class explanation of what is going on in the world "as the pace of the class struggle accelerates, as imperialism's war against Afghanistan unfolds, and as the rulers in Sweden go after working people here."

## Young Socialists

A real strength of the meetings over the weekend was the participation of members of the Young Socialists. The YS has become a more cohesive and politically self-confident organization over the past year, joining protest actions, selling Pathfinder books and the *Militant*, relating to strikes and other working-class struggles, and building and participating in a delegation from Sweden to the 15th World Festival of Youth and Students, held in Algiers, Algeria, this past August.

Building a communist party within the working class in imperialist Sweden, several pointed out, was something they could, and needed to, start to take responsibility for and help to lead.

Members of the CL and YS have joined a range of struggles that are at the center of the resistance of working people to the employers' offensive in Sweden. These include:

- A march and rally of some 7,000 people August 26 to protest the closing of Stainless, a part of Avesta Polaroid, a manufacturer of stainless steel. The company said 330 jobs will be eliminated in this community of 12,000 people, located in the midwestern part of Sweden. Production will be moved to a plant in the United Kingdom.

- A rally of 600 people March 31 to protest the layoff of 1,500 workers out of 3,200 employed at Ericsson's mobile phone factory. Several days earlier the telecommunications company said it will lay off 2,600 workers from its factories in Kumla and Linköping.

The layoffs highlight the vulnerability of entire communities in Sweden to plant closings and cutbacks by even a single important company.

- A strike by more than 4,000 construction workers across Sweden April 23 to gain a national contract. The strike is estimated to have cost the employers 80 to 100 million Swedish kronas (US\$8–10 million).

- A campaign against increased cop and security guard violence. Adonis Hocheimy, 27, has been at the center of this fight ever since he was nearly beaten to death in the

Continued on next page

## 'No' to Swedish imperialism's complicity in Afghan war!

Reprinted below are short excerpts from a statement issued November 4 by the Communist League and the Young Socialists in Sweden.

We urge working people and youth to join in condemning Washington's massive bombings and assault on Afghanistan, whose purpose is to set up an imperialist protectorate in the country.

Prime Minister Göran Persson and the Swedish government are backing the war in order, like all other imperialist governments, to try to assert the interests of the Swedish capitalist class in the conflict. Persson is also using the pretext of "anti-terrorism" to increase the control of the wealthy rulers over working people in this country.

The idea that Sweden represents a more "democratic" and "peaceful" imperialism is an illusion kept alive by all wings of bourgeois forces in this country. This is reflected in recent demonstrations in Stockholm where there have been calls for more Swedish influence in the conflict, often in combination with a bigger role for the United Nations.

But the truth is that the Swedish ruling class is as brutal as their U.S. counterparts, differences in economic and military power aside. Ever since it became a junior imperialist power—joining the international band of robbers around 1900—the government in Stockholm has not missed an opportunity to either use military or other means to back the interests of finance capital.

In 1905 it gathered troops at the Norwegian border to prevent independence for Norway—an attempted war that was pre-

vented by the working class in Sweden which refused to fight against its class brothers and sisters in Norway. The Swedish "voluntary-brigades" and their role in the drowning of the Finnish revolution in blood in 1918 was another example not long after.

Swedish troops constituted the lion's share of the UN force that disarmed the anti-colonial liberation movement in the Congo and paved the way for the murder of its leader Patrice Lumumba. Swedish troops have participated in the occupation of Bosnia, Kosovo, and Macedonia. Today the ruling class in Sweden is preparing for war by, among other moves, building a rapid deployment force.

In addition to military deployments, the Swedish companies are fully occupied with the superexploitation of workers in Latin America, Asia, and Africa, and seek to establish themselves in their backyard, the Baltic countries.

The rulers work day and night to make working people believe there is a "we" in Sweden. But it is the oppressed peoples in Afghanistan and other Third World countries, and in other imperialist countries, that are the allies of the working class in the fight for a future for humanity. Our allies are not the Swedish capitalist families—the Wallenbergs, Stenbergs, Axelson-Johnsons, Philipssons, Kamprads, and others—and their government in Stockholm. They are our common enemy.

## Attacks on workers' rights

The foreign policy of the Swedish rulers is an extension of their politics at home. Immigrant workers in particular know the

brutality of the police and security guards—for example the killing of Idris Demir in Jönköping in March and the assault on Adonis Hocheimy in Stockholm last year. Far more workers are injured and killed on the job each year than even those assaulted by police officers and security guards.

Using the "anti-terrorism" scare, the Swedish ruling class is seeking to strengthen its hand in preparation for the social battles which they know will grow as the crisis of capitalism deepens. They have backed assaults such as the antidemocratic laws within the Schengen Agreement that increase police cooperation and end protection against extradition within the European Union.

Recent struggles by working people in Sweden and Scandinavia give glimpses of the historic line of march of the working class and point the only way out of the dead end of capitalism. They help show the road forward for the exploited producers, the creators of all wealth, to take power out of the hands of the imperialist war makers and, like the workers and farmers in Cuba in 1959, install their own government.

A workers and farmers government will lead millions of working people in Sweden to abolish capitalism and join in the worldwide struggle for a socialist future, where science and the means of production will be used in the interest of humanity—and not to destroy all human culture in a Third World War.

End imperialism's war against Afghanistan! No to Swedish imperialism's complicity! No to the government's "anti-terrorism" laws: they are an excuse for attacks on workers' rights!



# Socialist candidate in Miami wins support in free speech fight

Continued from front page

other political activists in Chicago the weekend of November 17-18 to report on the defense effort and encourage support.

Goodwill Industries of South Florida fired Italie from his job as a sewing machine operator October 22. The company action came a few days after the socialist appeared on television in a debate with other mayoral candidates before some 400 people at Miami-Dade Community College in which he stated his opposition to the U.S. war in Afghanistan, his defense of the Cuban Revolution, and his support for union-organizing efforts.

Italie appeared on the evening news after the campus debate, and for the next two days supervisors on the job began to ask him about his campaign. Four days after the debate, Italie's supervisor called him into the personnel office. There, the mayoral candidate was told by a company manager: "I have been assigned to tell you that because of your views of the U.S. government, you are a disruptive force and cannot work here any longer. Get your belongings and go."

Goodwill chief executive officer Dennis Pastrana acknowledged that Italie had been fired because of his political statements, telling the *Miami Herald* October 30 that "we cannot have anyone who is attempting to subvert the United States of America" work at the plant. The company does not claim Italie was fired for his conduct on the job, such as quality of work, interfering with production, or for talking with co-workers.

On the radio program "Sound Off" based in Fort Myers, Italie said supporters of the fight to defend the First Amendment "are winning a hearing from working people for the right to advocate views contrary to the policies of the government." The host, Sasha, invited Italie to speak after hearing

him earlier in the week on the Francisco Aruca radio program in Miami. Aruca is a well-known opponent of the U.S. embargo of Cuba and supporter of a normalization of relations between the two countries.

On the "Sound Off" program Italie explained that his firing comes in the context of other attacks on democratic rights in Florida and around the country. "The U.S. Congress has passed new legislation," said Italie, "that makes it easier for the FBI and other government agencies to spy on and harass opponents of government policy, in particular demonizing immigrants and targeting them for harsher restrictions on their rights."

## Black firefighters win reinstatement

The socialist candidate added that in Miami a victory was won when three Black firefighters recently returned to work after a nearly two-month suspension for objecting to placing a large American flag on the truck they were assigned to. "These three firefighters—Terry Williams, James Moore, and William Clark—stood up to a storm of criticism and false press reports," stated Italie, "and showed the courage and determination all workers and farmers will need as we speak out against racism and war, and in defense of our right to oppose government policy in this country and around the world."

In early November the Miami-Dade Fire Department cleared all three of any wrongdoing and the three returned to work.

Opponents of the U.S. embargo of Cuba expressed their support for this free speech fight at meetings of the Alianza Martiana, a largely Cuban group in Miami. At a November 9 meeting, Andrés Gómez, who is a leader of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, introduced Italie to some 50 participants.



Militant/Eric Simpson

**Michael Italie, the recent Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Miami, talks with supporters and the press outside Goodwill Industries, where he was fired by the company for statements against the U.S. war on Afghanistan and in support of the Cuban Revolution during a candidates' debate. Supporters have launched a nationwide fight to defend First Amendment rights.**



"Michael Italie has a long history of speaking out in opposition to the embargo of Cuba and other hostile U.S. acts against Cuba," said Gómez. "As the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Miami, Mike defended the Cuban revolutionary process and he deserves our support."

Italie explained to the meeting that Goodwill fired him not just for his opposition to the U.S. war in Afghanistan and his support of the Cuban Revolution, "but because I speak out about the importance of workers organizing unions to advance their conditions and rights on the job." Goodwill is a notorious antiunion company, said Italie, "In fact they take advantage of loopholes in the minimum wage laws to pay many workers as little as \$1, \$2 or \$3 per hour. These bosses don't like any workers who speak up for their rights; they view us as a challenge to their power and profits."

At the meeting Alianza Martiana activists collected 45 signatures on Committee to Defend Freedom of Speech and the Bill

of Rights petitions that call on the mayor and city commissioners to "throw the full weight of the Miami city government behind Michael Italie's demand that his unjust firing be reversed and that he be reinstated to his job at Goodwill Industries."

A truck driver at the meeting told Italie that he carries around a clipping from *El Nuevo Herald* about the socialist campaign as a tool to tell other workers about the fight against this political firing. He noted that *El Nuevo Herald* only has had this one brief article on the socialist campaign.

In order to make Goodwill Industries pay the highest possible political price for the firing, supporters of Michael Italie will be taking to the streets during the annual Miami bookfair, handing out fact sheets and gathering petitions against the firing.

"Winning the support of individuals as well as organizations is critical to maintaining momentum in this fight to defend workers' rights," Italie reported to the first meeting of the Committee to Defend Freedom of Speech and the Bill of Rights. The Miami committee has produced a "truth kit" with a fact sheet and press coverage on the firing and a statement that can be signed by those wanting to defend Italie's rights.

The fact sheet is now available in English, Spanish, and French. To receive this packet, to obtain other information, and to send urgently needed contributions, contact the Committee to Defend Freedom of Speech and the Bill of Rights, P.O. Box 510127, Miami, FL 33151-0127. Tel: (305) 724-5965. Checks should be made out to the Free Speech Defense Fund.

## 'More deeply connected to working class'

Continued from previous page

subway by two private security guards.

Over the past few years the increasing use by the Stockholm local government of several security companies in the subway has coincided with a significant rise in attacks by guards against working people. In 1999, for example, 813 people, overwhelmingly Blacks and immigrants, were charged by subway guards with "violent resistance," a method the cops use to counter assault charges by victims.

• Two ultrarightist skinheads carried out a savage beating of a 41-year-old Hungarian-born worker, in a northern suburb of Stockholm last December. A public meeting was held December 15 outside the Hallonbergen subway station to condemn the assault.

The action, called by the Network against Racism and Local 20 of the Service and Communications Union (SEKO), attracted some 100 people, many of them workers and youth who joined the demonstration on their way home.

• In another case involving skinheads, some 1,000 ultrarightists marched December 16 through Salem, a mainly working-class suburb southwest of here. The killing of a nazi skinhead there the week before led the rightists to mobilize for this action.

• Seventy young people rallied in front of the Södertörn police station March 15 to protest the police killing of Idris Demir, a 25-year-old Kurdish immigrant from Turkey. Participants carried banners saying, "Disarm the police" and "No human being is illegal." Protests were also held in Jönköping, Malmö, and other towns.

## Keeping fire on Swedish imperialism

The Congress voted to issue a statement on the imperialists' war against Afghanistan (see page 8) aimed at helping to explain to workers and youth the complicity of Swedish imperialism in the war.

There have been three demonstrations of up to 4,000 people in Stockholm over the

past two months, with the theme of opposing "war and terrorism." CL and YS members have met young people and workers at the actions attracted to the *Militant's* stand opposing the imperialist war and to revolutionary books published by Pathfinder.

Participants in the congress discussed how they can more effectively present revolutionary working-class politics and de-

mands at these actions, which tend to be dominated by either pacifist or anti-American slogans and chants.

CL and YS members planned on taking placards in defense of workers' rights and opposing Swedish imperialism to upcoming protests, and to distribute the statement on the role of Swedish imperialism in the world today.

## Books for working people and youth fighting imperialism and its war

### Che Guevara Talks to Young People

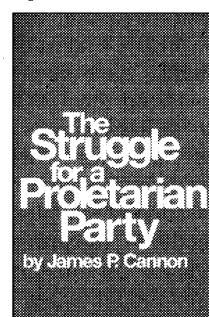
Ernesto Che Guevara, drawing on his experience as a leader of the Cuban revolution, talks as an equal with youth of Cuba and the world. In English and in Spanish. **\$12** (regular \$14.95)

### Malcolm X Talks to Young People

Includes Malcolm X's condemnation of imperialist wars in the Congo, Vietnam, and elsewhere. **\$9** (regular price \$10.95)

### The Struggle for a Proletarian Party

By James P. Cannon



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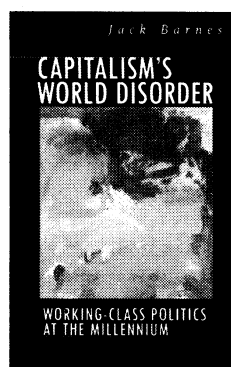
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from Pathfinder

# USA Patriot Act has 'chilling effect' on U.S. booksellers

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

*Bookselling This Week* (BTW), a publication of the American Booksellers Association (ABA), featured an article by Dan Cullen in its November 5 issue commenting on one aspect of the "USA Patriot Act," signed into law by U.S. president George Bush on October 26. The article helps shed some light on the expansion of the federal government's investigative powers and the fact that it targets wide layers of the population.

Chris Finan, president of the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression (ABFFE), told BTW "that the foundation believes the new legislation's reach could extend into the business lives of independent bookstores. In response, ABFFE is writing booksellers to outline its concerns and to offer guidance," Cullen writes.

"The bill authorizes the detention of immigrants without charges; the investigation of potentially money-laundering banks; and the expansion of the government's ability to launch secret searches, engage in electronic surveillance, and obtain medical, financial, and business records," the article notes.

## Unconstitutional searches

After approval by the House of Representatives in a 356-66 vote on October 24, the Senate passed the bill 98-1. "The lone vote in opposition came from Senator Russell D. Feingold (D-WI)," Cullen wrote. "While supporters of the bill argued that the new measures were essential in combating terrorism in the wake of the September 11 attacks, Feingold countered that it sanctioned unconstitutional searches and threatened citizens and immigrants who might have had only tenuous associations with alleged terrorists.

"Speaking of the bill, Feingold said, 'Under this new provision, all business records can be compelled, including those containing sensitive personal information, such as...records of what book somebody has taken out from the library. We are not talking about terrorist suspects, we are talking about people who just may have come into some kind of casual contact with the person in that situation. This is an enormous expansion of authority under a law that provides only minimal judicial supervision.'"

Finan sent a letter to all ABA bookstore members November 7, noting the bill "gives the federal government expanded authority to search your business records, including the titles of the books purchased by your customers."

Cullen wrote that Finan "explained that

the FBI can obtain a court order for bookstore records, papers, documents, and other items from a special federal court, sometimes called the 'spy court.' The court's judge makes his or her decision 'ex parte,' meaning there is no opportunity for a bookseller or her lawyer to object in court. And, as Finan pointed out to BTW, "You cannot object publicly either. The new law includes a gag order that prevents you from disclosing to any other person the fact that you have received an order to produce documents."

"Finan noted to BTW that 'ABFFE is deeply concerned by the potential chilling effect of court orders issued to booksellers under this new law.' In normal civil or criminal cases, a bookseller who receives a subpoena for customer information has the opportunity to ask the court to quash the order on First Amendment grounds. In several cases, Finan pointed out, booksellers have successfully resisted subpoenas. As he noted in his letter to booksellers, 'Under [the new law], however, booksellers may not have this chance. Depending on the wording of the order, the bookseller may be required to immediately turn over the records that are being sought.'"

"Although the law appears to suggest that contacting anyone about the court order is forbidden, Finan said that ABFFE believes booksellers are entitled to legal counsel," Cullen wrote.

## Hotel workers in Indonesia fight company, government harassment of union



Workers at the Shangri-La hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia, lead a march in support of their 11-month struggle. Workers began organizing demonstrations last December in response to the dismissal of the president of the Shangri-La Jakarta Independent Labor Union. The management closed the hotel for three months and fired the protesting workers. The unionists have toured nationally and internationally to win support, and have organized many protests. On November 6, the workers faced a new attack when the South Jakarta District Court fined five workers and two union officials \$2 million dollars in response to a management suit.

Elsewhere in Jakarta and across Indo-

nesia, workers are organizing actions to demand economic and political rights and to defend their unions. On November 15, some 250 garment workers from PT Koinus Jaya Garment rallied to demand severance pay. Around 200 police attacked the demonstration, firing shots and arresting eight women protesters. The workers gathered at the police station to demand their comrades' release. Claiming declining sales, the company had laid off half of its 500-member workforce. Ninda, a 21-year-old worker, told the *Jakarta Post* that she suspected the bosses were also reacting to the workers' decision to join the Karya Utama Labor Union Federation.

# Lebanese immigrants in North Carolina face federal 'terrorism' prosecution

BY DEAN HAZLEWOOD

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—Part of the U.S. rulers war against workers' rights is unfolding here, as federal prosecutors move ahead with their plans to put on trial eight men and one woman they accuse of being "Charlotte's Hezbollah cell." Most of those charged are of Lebanese descent. The case is touted in the *Charlotte Observer* as a "blueprint for smashing cells of suspected terrorist supporters operating on American soil."

The nine are the first to be prosecuted under a 1996 federal law banning material support for foreign groups the U.S. government deems to be "terrorist." They are charged with raising funds for Hezbollah, an organization in Lebanon that fought both against Israeli military forces and the right-wing militia backed by Tel Aviv that occupied the southern part of that country for 22

years. Israel continues to control a small part of territory in Lebanon, after being forced to withdraw from most of the occupied land due to resistance from the Lebanese people.

Defense lawyers argue that by banning contributions to Hezbollah by U.S. residents the government is violating the Religious Freedom and Restoration Act and depriving contributors of their First Amendment right to free speech and free association.

The defendants and about a dozen others are also accused of smuggling cigarettes from North Carolina to Michigan to avoid the higher tobacco taxes there and of breaking immigration regulations in order to obtain U.S. residency. Jessica Fortune, the wife of one of those accused of being a Hezbollah supporter, was found guilty September 24 of conspiring with her husband to break the immigration laws. She will be sentenced at a

later date. None of the accused has been charged with any act of terrorism or violence.

The government mounted a massive operation in the case, deploying 200 FBI agents and other cops in raids on a number of homes and businesses in July 2000 in Michigan and throughout the Charlotte area. Cop agencies and the capitalist news media smeared those arrested as "terrorists" and the affidavit laying out the charges contained vague references to military training in the Charlotte area. Nearly every report in the press repeated the inflammatory quote from the affidavit that an unnamed government stool pigeon "believes that if [Hezbollah] issued an authorization to execute a terrorist act in the United States," Mohamad Hammoud, the supposed ringleader, "would not hesitate in carrying it out."

However, despite the prosecution having access to computers and files confiscated in the police raids, they have presented no evidence to back up this claim. Instead, they charge the nine with working to supply Hezbollah with money and equipment, such as night vision goggles and radar.

The defendants, who have all entered not guilty pleas, are expected to go on trial next April. The prosecution will employ secret witnesses, secret reports, and hearsay evidence of what was said in wiretapped telephone conversations. The actual tapes of some of these conversations have been destroyed. The attorney for Said Mohammed Harb says tapes made by U.S. and Canadian authorities of Harb's conversations contain "no foreign intelligence information at all" and only once mentions Hezbollah in passing. He also says that government reports on these wiretappings "never so much as hint at any terrorist or clandestine intelligence gathering activities" but rather focus on "alleged immigration fraud and bank fraud."

But prosecutors claim that their wiretaps are valid because terrorist activity often is not obvious. "Innocuous sounding conversations may in fact be signals of important activity," they wrote in court papers.

Meanwhile, Attorney General John Ashcroft has asked for intelligence documents in the case to be kept secret, on the grounds of "national security."

Dean Hazlewood is a textile worker and member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees Local 1516 in Kannapolis, North Carolina.

## Coal miners press fight against Robert Murray

BY LARRY QUINN

PITTSBURGH—Coal operator Robert Murray, who was only just getting over being taken down a notch by the last labor board ruling against him, received another blow October 26 when the Pennsylvania regional office of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) issued a formal com-

plaint against him for threatening and vilifying union coal miners at his Maple Creek mine in Pennsylvania.

Last month the National Labor Relations Board in the Ohio region dismissed the last remaining charge Murray had filed against the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) over panel rights. A panel is a seniority hiring list and can be company-wide in union contracts.

The NLRB concluded that "the panel rights and their application are nondiscriminatory and not violative" of the National Labor Relations Act. The ruling will give miners who formerly worked at three North American coal mines rights to jobs at the Powhatan mine.

The most recent ruling issued by the NLRB office in Pennsylvania is a formal complaint against Murray for threatening and vilifying Maple Creek miners' representatives, UMWA members, and its officers. The NLRB action was in response to an unfair labor practice charge leveled against Murray in August by the UMWA.

The NLRB took action against Murray and D. Lynn Shanks, company president of Maple Creek mine. Among the complaints filed were: Disregarding the union and its offic-

ers, threatening union employees with reprisals for publicizing the labor dispute at Maple Creek, threatening employees with loss of jobs and loss of wages and benefits if they failed to select new union officers and because of their support of the union, soliciting employees to replace their current union officers, telling its employees that their support for the union was futile, threatening the union president with unspecified reprisals, and disparaging its employees for participating in union activities.

"By the conduct described above," the NLRB complaint stated, Murray and his associates have "been interfering with, restraining, and coercing employees in the exercise of their rights guaranteed" by labor law.

Carlo Tarley, secretary-treasurer of the UMWA, welcomed the NLRB's latest decision. "Murray and Shanks have been actively trashing and smearing the UMWA, and we're pleased the NLRB has now demanded that they stop," he said. "Threats and insinuations are absolutely not constructive to the process of resolving disputes."

The NLRB has scheduled a hearing on the complaint for January 17 in Pittsburgh.

Larry Quinn is a member of United Mine Workers of America Local 1248 at the Maple Creek mine.

From Pathfinder

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# FBI offensive against Black, labor rights began before WWII

Printed below is an excerpt from the article "Washington's 50-year Domestic Contra Operation," by Larry Seigle, which sheds light on how the U.S. government used its preparations for and participation in World War II to justify its assaults on Black rights. A future extract will cover Washington's attacks on other oppressed nationalities battling racist discrimination. The article is printed in *New International* no. 6, copyright © 1987 by 408 Printing and Publishing Corp., reprinted by permission. Footnotes and subheadings are by the *Militant*.

BY LARRY SEIGLE

During and after the Watergate scandals of the mid-1970s, the immense scope of FBI disruption, spying, and provocations against the people of the United States came to light in an unprecedented way. But the origins of these operations are not—as most commentators place them—in the spread of McCarthyism in the 1950s or in Washington's attempts to disrupt the anti-Vietnam War movement and social protests of the 1960s.

The fact is that these FBI operations began on the eve of the Second World War. They were central to preparations by the U.S. capitalist rulers to lead the nation into another carnage to promote their interests against their imperialist rivals and against the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America struggling for liberation from colonial domination. These operations were directed against the leadership—and potential leadership—of the two major social forces in the United States that threatened to interfere with the ability of the U.S. ruling families to accomplish their objectives: the labor unions and the Black movement. The government's aim was to isolate class-struggle leaders who could provide guidance to a broader movement that might develop.

World War II had begun in Europe in September 1939—just a few weeks before the arrests of the Teamster leaders in Iowa and Nebraska. On September 1 Germany's armed forces invaded Poland. Two days later the British and French governments declared war on Germany. Washington proclaimed neutrality and would maintain this as its stated policy until Japanese naval air forces attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941. But official neutrality was a cover allowing the Roosevelt administration and Congress to take concrete steps toward entry into the war, while avoiding the nationwide public discussion that would have been set off by a Senate debate over a proposed declaration of war.

The drive toward war necessitated an assault on working people at home and against democratic rights in general. Roosevelt gave FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover free rein to use the FBI against the labor movement and Black organizations. The White House and Justice Department secretly authorized

many of the illegal methods used by the FBI and turned a blind eye toward others.

This authorization for the FBI to assume the functions of a political police force was done without legislation, which would have had to be proposed and debated in Congress. It was accomplished instead by "executive order," a device that was rapidly assuming a major place in the operations of the government and would increasingly become a major mode of governing in the decades to come.

On September 6, 1939, Roosevelt issued an executive order directing the FBI "to take charge of investigative work" in matters relating to "espionage, counterespionage, sabotage, subversive activities and violations of the neutrality laws." The key phrase was "subversive activities," and the most important decision was to include this slippery concept in the list of responsibilities given the FBI. While there were federal laws against espionage, sabotage, and violation of U.S. "neutrality," no law explained what "subversive activity" might consist of....

## Target: Black fight for equal rights

As Washington prepared to enter the war under the banner of fighting the white-supremacist Nazi regime and its allies, Blacks in the United States were battling racist oppression. This struggle centered on the fight to overturn segregation, which existed not just in the South but in every federal government institution throughout the land and to a large extent in private industry and many aspects of social life.

During the decade of the Great Depression, Black working people had suffered even more than their white counterparts. Unemployment among workers who were Black was much higher than among workers who were white. Black farmers lost their land at an even higher rate than did white farmers. Education, health care, and other social services were qualitatively worse for Blacks.

In many parts of the country, particularly in the South, Blacks were systematically denied the right to vote. Segregation laws were backed up with extralegal terror to intimidate those who tried to organize to change these conditions. Lynchings were frequent in the Jim Crow South. The membership of racist terror outfits such as the Ku Klux Klan was intertwined with the cops, courts, and government officials. Throughout the country, police violence and frame-ups of Black defendants were widespread....

More and more Black people decided that the time had come to step up the fight against this kind of racist oppression. If the United States had entered the war in the name of democracy and against Nazi doctrines of white race superiority, then the fight for changes at home could no longer be postponed. Moreover, as the war unfolded overseas, the rise of national liberation struggles, particularly in Asia and the Pacific, inspired confidence and greater militancy in the fight against racial oppression at home. While the imperialist powers fought each other over redhibition of the planet, many colonial peoples seized the opportunity to advance the fight to take control of their own destinies. Inside the United States, peoples of color likewise saw an opportunity to step up the fight for their rights.

The U.S. rulers, however, portrayed the fight for equal rights for Blacks as "disruption of the war effort." Supporters of the government in the labor movement and in Black organizations argued that the battle against racism at home, while a worthy one, should nonetheless be kept in check until after a U.S. victory in the war. The fight against racist discrimination, they argued, must not be allowed to go so far as to interfere with the "national unity" needed to win the war. This position was advanced by liberals, by the social democratic Socialist Party, and by the Stalinized Communist Party....

## 'Double V' campaign for democracy

The FBI focused particular attention on newspapers such as the *Pittsburgh Courier*, whose nationwide circulation had skyrocketed with its Double V campaign.<sup>1</sup>



Cop arrests bleeding man during 1943 rebellion in Harlem, sparked by cop shooting of Black soldier. Black grievances included discrimination in armed forces. FBI operations beginning on eve of World War II targeted Black movement as well as labor unions.

The report decried the fact that "the Negro press is a strong provocator of discontent among Negroes." (Like all cops, the FBI insists that "discontent" is created not by injustice and oppression but by instigators and agitators.) The secret FBI report went on to complain that the "general tone" of the Black press "is not at all, in many instances, informative or helpful to its own race.... More space is devoted to alleged instances of discrimination or mistreatment of Negroes than there is to matters which are educational or helpful."

To drive this point home to editors and writers for Black newspapers who insisted on saying things that were not "helpful," FBI agents began systematically visiting them. FBI agents also began calling on members of groups such as the NAACP, who were often enthusiastic supporters of the Double V campaign. The NAACP in particular, which was growing rapidly in size and activity, was targeted for infiltration by FBI stool pigeons and provocateurs. When fifteen Black sailors assigned as waiters for white officers in Washington, D.C., protested racial discrimination, the navy's response was to ask the FBI to investigate the protesters. The FBI obliged by opening a full-fledged, nationwide "investigation," including the massive use of informers, against the NAACP.

"FBI investigation of the NAACP [during the war]...produced massive information in Bureau files about the organization, its members, their legitimate activities to oppose racial discrimination, and internal disputes within some of the chapters," a U.S. Senate committee concluded in 1975. But these "reports and their summaries contained little if any information about specific activities or planned activities in violation of federal law."

In mid-1942 Attorney General Francis Biddle summoned several editors of Black weeklies to Justice Department headquarters in Washington, D.C. Biddle arrogantly told the editors that their coverage of clashes between white and Black soldiers at army bases was a disservice to the war effort. Biddle did not challenge the accuracy of the reports but nonetheless insisted that the information should not have been printed. The attorney general, a liberal and staunch Roosevelt supporter, told the editors that if they did not change the tone of their papers, he was "going to shut them all up" on charges of sedition.

Then, according to one account of the meeting, Biddle picked up a copy of the *Chicago Defender* and

complained about an article on nine black soldiers being transported through Alabama and having to wait twenty-two hours to eat because white restaurants in railroad stations would not feed them. Biddle said it would have been better if such an article had not appeared. In addition, he said, a number of the paper's other articles "came very close to sedition," and the Jus-

tice Department was watching it closely "for seditious matter."<sup>2</sup>

Biddle's threats of prosecution for sedition did not come out of the blue. The editors he was threatening knew that leaders of the Teamster union and the Socialist Workers Party had been convicted in Minneapolis in 1941 for violation of the Smith Act, which outlawed advocacy of revolutionary ideas.

In addition, sedition indictments had been brought in September 1942 against sixty-three members of the Temple of Islam (the Black Muslims), including its leader Elijah Muhammad. The Muslims were accused of sedition because they refused to accept the racist, anti-Japanese stereotypes that were a major part of U.S. war propaganda and expressed solidarity with the Japanese as a people of color. Although the Justice Department could not make the sedition charge stick, it did succeed in convicting Elijah Muhammad and the other defendants on draft-evasion charges.

## Newspapers banned from U.S. mail

The government blocked shipment to troops overseas of Black newspapers that continued to publish condemnations of racism and other "unhelpful" facts and opinions. These papers were also often confiscated on military bases in the United States.

Early in 1943, at Biddle's urging, the U.S. Post Office began proceedings to suspend the second-class mailing rights of several newspapers with uncompromising stands against race discrimination. These included the *Militant*, whose contributors and editors included members of the Socialist Workers Party. The Postmaster General banned the *Militant* from the mails on the grounds, among others, that its articles included "stimulation of race issues." All fighters for Black rights were supposed to get the point. The *Militant* won restoration of its mailing rights after a year-long battle that included the mobilization of protests from leaders of Black groups, trade unions, and civil liberties organizations.<sup>3</sup>

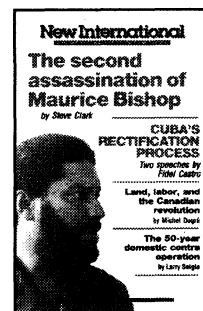
<sup>1</sup> In 1942 the *Pittsburgh Courier* launched what it called the "Double V" campaign after publishing a letter written by a young Black worker in an aircraft plant in Wichita, Kansas, who called for a "double victory" for democracy at home and abroad. The campaign reverberated throughout the country as Blacks began expressing a growing determination to not accept continued postponement of their demands for full citizenship rights.

<sup>2</sup> Recounted in Charles Washburn, *A Question of Sedition* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1986), p. 90. This is one of the most substantial existing resources documenting government harassment of the Black press during World War II.

<sup>3</sup> An important part of the fight against racism and political repression during World War II is told in the *Pathfinder* book *Fighting Racism in World War II*, a collection of articles from the *Militant*.

## PATHFINDER

In *New International* no. 6  
**Washington's 50-Year  
Domestic Contra Operation**



LARRY SEIGLE

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# Workers' rights

Continued from front page

officials to spy on conversations between inmates and their lawyers, including in cases where no charges have been filed but the government claims the eavesdropping is needed to prevent violence or terrorism.

The new rule also authorizes the government to intercept mail between people in custody and their lawyers for up to one year. The monitoring can be conducted without obtaining a court warrant, whenever the attorney general deems that "reasonable suspicion" exists to judge that an inmate allegedly may be trying to use communication to "facilitate acts of terrorism."

According to the *New York Times*, the government is also considering imposing other measures to crack down on workers' rights, including new "guidelines" to assist prosecutors in opposing bail for people who are under suspicion of involvement in "terrorist activities," even if they are charged with minor or unrelated crimes. The White House also announced November 9 that an additional 1,800 National Guard troops will be deployed at airports across the country over the next 60 days. The additional guardsmen will supplement the 7,300 already in place.

## Military tribunals target immigrants

President George Bush signed an executive order November 13 establishing military tribunals to try noncitizens. Under the order a person can be rounded up and tried in a military court if the U.S. president declares "there is reason to believe" the individual, "is or was a member of the organization known as al Qaeda; has engaged in, aided or abetted, or conspired to commit, acts of international terrorism, or acts in preparation therefor"; or "has knowing harbored one or more individuals described" above.

Proceedings in such courts can be done in secret and those accused are not necessarily allowed to see the evidence against them. The tribunals do not provide for proof of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. "Those accused in such courts would have fewer rights than a person would in a court martial," said Eugene Fidell, president of the National Institute of Military Justice. The suspects would not get jury trials and could be subject to long pretrial detentions. "Experts in military law said the tribunals would severely limit the rights of any defendant even beyond those in military trials," the *New York Times* reported.

This assault on civil liberties has its precedent during World War II when U.S. president Franklin Roosevelt had German saboteurs tried by a military court and six of them were executed. "Traditionally military commissions have been hanging courts, they have an extraordinary record of convictions and death sentences," opined Peter Raven-Hansen, a professor at George Washington University.

More than two weeks before Bush's executive order, ultrarightist politician Patrick Buchanan stated, "If we are serious about this war on terrorism, Congress ought not only to declare war, but warn that any terrorist caught in the U.S. on a mission of massacre will go before a military tribunal and be put to death quickly and in secret, as were those German saboteurs." Buchanan urged Homeland Security chief Thomas Ridge to enact an "immediate moratorium on all immigration," expand "the Border Patrol to 20,000," and "expedite the deportation of the eight-to-11 million illegal aliens." The rightist concluded, "The enemy is inside our gates, and we must ferret him out." After Bush's announcement, Buchanan's web site reposted the article, with a headline, "Ahead of the game."

Conservative columnist William Safire came out opposed to Bush's move in a November 15 article. "Misadvised by a frustrated and panic-stricken attorney general, a president of the United States has just assumed what amounts to dictatorial power to jail or execute aliens," Safire wrote. "He seizes the power to circumvent the courts and set up his own drumhead tribunals—panels of officers who sit in judgment of non-citizens who the president need only claim 'reason to believe' are members of terrorist organizations."

The same day Bush signed the order on the kangaroo courts, the Justice Department announced it has directed cops across the country to round up 5,000 immigrants, mostly from the Middle East, for "inter-

views" in the investigation of the September 11 hijackings. The interrogations will be based on lists compiled from immigration and State Department records of people who lived in the United States since Jan. 1, 2000, and entered the country on tourist, student, or business visas. Only men aged 18 to 33 are being put on the list, according to the *Times*.

The government has already detained some 1,200 people since the September 11 events. In an interview with the *Wall Street Journal*, Homeland Security Director Ridge acknowledged that investigators still had no evidence that any of these individuals are connected with those attacks.

## Sedition laws

Washington's assault on democratic rights also includes probes on using sedition laws. Prosecutors have cited the laws in the case of Osama Awadallah, a Jordanian student being held in jail, supposedly in connection with the government's investigation of the September 11 hijackings. Prosecutors in Manhattan announced in early November that a federal grand jury was investigating whether there was a "seditious conspiracy to levy against the United States" on the part of the student, who supposedly knew one of the suspected hijackers.

The Civil War-era law imposes up to 20-year prison terms when two or more people "conspire to overthrow, put down, or to destroy by force the government of the United States, or to levy war against them." It was used in the 1980s against four Puerto Rican nationalists, convicted of planning to plant a bomb at a Marine training center and an Army Reserve facility, and against a Muslim cleric and co-defendants who the government claimed planned to blow up the United Nations building. In both cases no acts of violence were carried out.

The first sedition laws were passed in 1798 by U.S. president John Adams and the Federalist-controlled Congress. The Alien and Sedition Acts were imposed only seven years after the U.S. constitution was finally ratified by the states, a process delayed until the Bill of Rights was included in the document. The legislation punished by imprisonment and fines, anyone who spoke, wrote, or published anything that brought the president or Congress "into contempt or disrepute."

The first victim of the act was Congressman Matthew Lyon from Vermont, who fought in the Revolutionary War. In a letter to a newspaper in the state he had attacked

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# —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

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**Lumumba and the Congo Revolution.** Speaker: Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party, member, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 876. Fri., Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m. 4208 W. Vernor. Tel: (313) 554-0504.

## NEW JERSEY

### Newark

**Pakistan and Central Asia—U.S. Gains Military Foothold in Region as Workers Deepen Resistance To War and Economic Crisis.** Speaker: Maurice Williams, staff writer for the *Militant*. Fri., Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. 506 Springfield Avenue. Donation: \$4. Tel: (973) 643-3341.

## NEW YORK

### Brooklyn

**Europe vs. America: Imperialist War in Afghanistan Accelerates Major Trends in World Politics.** Speaker, Mark Gilsdorf, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. 372A 53rd St. \$6 dinner.

\$5 program. Tel: (718) 567-8014.

### Garment District

**The Working Class and the Struggle against Imperialism Today. A Pathfinder Fund Event.** Speaker, Steve Clark, editorial director, Pathfinder Press. Fri., Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. 545 8th Avenue, 14th floor. \$5 dinner, \$4 program. Tel: (212) 695-7358.

### Upper Manhattan

**Communists and the World Struggle against Imperialism Today. A Pathfinder Fund Event.** Speaker, Steve Clark, editorial director, Pathfinder Press. Sat., Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. 5237 N. 5th Street. Donation: \$5 each for dinner, program. Tel: (212) 740-4611.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Philadelphia

**Protest the Privatization of Philadelphia Schools.** Panel discussion. Fri., Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. 5237 N. 5th Street. Donation: \$5 each for dinner, program. Tel: (215) 324-7020.

the Adams administration for its "unbounded thirst for ridiculous pomp, foolish adulation, and selfish avarice." Lyon was arrested and marched under guard into a 12-by-6 foot cell.

Thomas Jefferson called the laws an "unconstitutional reign of terror." The laws were allowed to lapse under a storm of opposition.

During the labor upsurge following World War I, a number of states passed sedition laws to use against union organizing and to quash support for the Russian Revolution. The state of West Virginia adopted laws prohibiting "unlawful communications" and flying the red and black flags of the Russian Revolution and socialist movement of the day. The law remains on the books, as does one prohibiting speaking or writing "in favor of the propriety, duty, and necessity of crime, violence, or other unlawful methods of terrorism as a means of accomplishing economic or political reform."

These historical examples help show why various sedition laws have been dubbed "thought-control legislation" by working people and defenders of democratic rights.

Patrick Buchanan, hammering away at the rights of working people, praised the 1920 Palmer raids in which federal agents "swooped down on immigrant enclaves, colared anarchists, roughed them up and booted 3,000 out of the United States." En-

couraged by the direction of the Justice Department, Buchanan in a November 9 column urged, "Let the 'Ashcroft Raids' begin."

## Feds probe campuses

In the past two months since the attacks on September 11, FBI or Immigration and Naturalization agents have gone on more than 200 college campuses to snoop on students from Middle Eastern countries. The government plans to expand this surveillance activity. A survey conducted by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers reported that 220 colleges had been contacted by the FBI or INS at least once with questions about the status of foreign students. Nearly all the universities officials readily supplied answers to the spy agencies, surrendering the students' right to privacy.

With an aura of intimidation government agents have appeared on campuses to interrogate dozens of students. One student from Saudi Arabia at the University of Colorado at Denver said two agents from the FBI and another from the INS appeared at his apartment unannounced and asked him his classes, activities, and politics. "I was afraid," he said. "I know they can do anything they want to you." He said federal investigators ended their interrogation of him saying, "Expect to see us again."

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**Broad front**—The Los Angeles Mission kicked off "God Bless America Month" by marching mission residents down skid row way-



Harry Ring

ing flags and rendering patriotic songs and offering prayers for "the military, politicians, the city, and Afghanistan's homeless."

**That'll learn 'em**—"More gas

customers than usual may have to go without heat this winter after failing to pay last winter's bills. PSNC Energy, which provides natural gas for 370,000 North Carolinians, said it disconnected 25,000 customers for nonpayment during the first eight months of the year, 10,000 more than usual."—News item.

**Ambulance chasers?**—Seemingly a bit stunned by the audacity, a federal judge is squinting at improper billings and overcharges filed by bankruptcy lawyers and accountants representing California's Pacific Gas & Electric. Of fees totaling about \$1 million for openers, the court requested an ex-

planation of charges filed over a four-month period. Particularly tabs of \$405 per hour compensation for time spent traveling.

**The folks with the golden shaft**—"PG&E Corp., whose utility arm has operated for the last seven months under bankruptcy law protection, said Monday that net income more than tripled, primarily because it is collecting more from customers than it needs to supply them with electricity."—News item.

**Besides, it was only waste**—"A federal investigation has concluded that there was no intentional wrongdoing in the case of two radioactive fuel bars missing from the Millstone

nuclear plant [in Connecticut]. The report found no evidence of intentional deception. It said the rods may have been sent to a low-level radioactive waste dump."

**Judge was hung over?**—In a rare departure from the norm, a Santa Ana businessman was sentenced to a year in the slammer, for dumping toxic chromium into the city sewer system.

**No hospitality**—A Dutch travel agency is sponsoring a \$440 "Live Like a Tramp in London" vacation. Vacationers will spend four days on their own around the city, equipped with a sleeping bag, a musical instrument, or a sketch pad or pencil.

On the last night they'll have a meal and hotel room. London Homeless charities are put out and Scotland Yard says it will put them behind bars.

**He had a real good union?**—When United Airlines dumped CEO James Goodwin he landed on a good-sized bag of severance money plus minor fringes—like for three years a company car, company club fees and a financial advisory service.

**Soft landing**—When a United honcho announced Goodwin's departure, he shrugged off questions, declaring, "Jim had an employment contract and we'll honor it."

## UFCW officials push through concession contract

BY REBECCA WILLIAMSON AND DAVID FERGUSON

TOPPENISH, Washington—Officials of the United Food and Commercial Workers union pushed through a new contract at Washington Beef here, in a vote November 1 in which only one-sixth of the workers at the plant cast a ballot in favor of an agreement that had been overwhelmingly rejected a week earlier.

Two hundred union members who had gone on strike September 19 were excluded from both votes.

The walkout began after the union officials and the company told workers that they had agreed to extend an expired contract. Union members, facing speedup on the job, harassment by the company, and seeking a wage increase and other improvements, opposed the move. While on lunch break some 200 workers demanded the company negotiate with them, but the bosses refused.

The company president showed up and fired the union members for not returning to work. The fired workers went through the plant to get others to join them on strike. Backtracking, the company proceeded to issue a list of 13 "troublemakers," who were fired, and offered to take back the others. The workers told the company they would all return or none would.

Washington Beef slaughters more than 1,000 cows per day. During the strike, the company was forced to reduce production to 400–500 cows per day.

Even with the strikers excluded from the vote, union members overwhelmingly rejected the first proposed contract by a 212-41 vote in late October. In a second ballot held November 1, the union officials won approval of the contract by a margin of five, 74 to 69. Strikers say about 40 workers on the evening cleanup crew weren't even informed of the balloting.

In the negotiations the union officials agreed to the company's firing of 19 workers it considered strike leaders. Others involved in the walkout who return to work would be without union protection for six months and on company probation for a year. In addition, several workers who joined the strike after the first day were considered by the bosses to have quit their jobs, but may be rehired if they reapply. Strikers told the *Militant* that the company had begun calling people back to work out of seniority and were passing over many more

than the 19.

Under the new contract, "If you're one minute late to work, or forget to sterilize your knife, they can fire you," said José Montano, one of the fired workers. The strikers are supposed to be called back gradually over the next 30 days, and if their jobs have been filled with replacement workers, the strikers must start at the bottom with the lowest pay, despite many having several years seniority at Washington Beef.

Manuel Rangel, a kill-floor worker for a decade at the company, said workers went on strike in part to respond to company-imposed speedup on the job. "Over the past two years the company has increased the number of cows we kill each day by 125, but with the same number of workers," he said. "This has meant a big increase in injuries."

At a Militant Labor Forum October 26 in Seattle, striker Augustin López said there has been "a lot of mistreatment of the workers at Washington Beef. People have been written up by the company for going to the rest room. If you stand up for your rights, supervisors will try to find a way to fire you."

The expired contract was the first between the union and the company, and many workers saw the negotiations as a chance to fight for a raise and adequate medical benefits. Most workers at Washington Beef start at \$6.72 per hour and top out at \$8.50. They receive few benefits and have no dental or vision coverage.

"Our unity was forged through fights for pay and rights on the floor everyday," Juan Serrano told the Seattle audience. "We have support from workers inside the plant because the people on the inside don't want what the company is giving them. In the beginning workers who went out were angry with those who didn't. Some workers who didn't strike called in sick and some came out to join us. We made it clear that we were not there to hurt those who were still working. We kept up communications with them using cell phones, so we knew everything that was going on. Several would stop by the picket line after work," he said.

"We are in it to make a change not just for us but for everyone," he said. "We want to extend this around the country. We want to show workers that they can do it, they can fight for what is right, for what we all need."



Militant/Jeff Ford

Meat packers on picket line at Washington Beef in Toppenish, Washington. "Unity was forged through fights for pay and rights on the floor everyday," said one striker.

## —25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

25 CENTS  
**THE MILITANT**  
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

November 26, 1976

BOSTON—An important victory for women was won in Massachusetts on November 2. Sixty-one percent of the voters ratified a state Equal Rights Amendment. Ballot Question 1, which said, "Equality under the law should not be denied or abridged because of sex, race, color, creed or national origin," is now part of the state's constitution.

Right-wing opponents of women's rights must be very disappointed. They had scored heavily last year when state ERAs were defeated in New York and New Jersey. Confident that this trend would continue, Phyllis Schlafly, national leader of Stop ERA, called Massachusetts the "bellwether" state. If voters rejected the ERA here she said, it would spell doom for the amendment around the country.

Support for the Massachusetts ERA was especially high among Blacks. A September 26 poll conducted by the Boston *Herald-American* showed 97 percent of the Black community backing it.

However, the *Bay State Banner*, the Black community paper, came out for a "no" vote on the ERA. Its October 14 editorial mistakenly argued that passage of the amendment would cripple affirmative-action programs for Blacks by enabling courts to outlaw these programs as discriminatory against whites. The editorial completely ignored the special problems and discrimination faced by Black women—more than half our community.

Black women have a dual fight. We have to fight racism because we are Black. And we have to fight sexism because we are women. *Black women—and the whole Black community—need the ERA.*

**THE MILITANT**  
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE  
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

November 26, 1951

Atrocity stories by capitalist war propagandists are almost invariably faked or grossly exaggerated. The claim that Chinese or North Koreans have murdered 6,270 U.S. prisoners of war is no exception. What distinguishes this claim, issued by Col. James M. Hanley, Judge Advocate General of the Eighth Army, is its extreme crudity.

The very timing of his report—so convenient for stalling cease-fire negotiations—would alone make it suspect. But the report is a fraud on the face of it. It contains not the shadow of proof and the latest date cited in it is Dec. 10, 1950.

Even Gen. Matthew B. Ridgeway has reluctantly admitted that "the total number of U.S. dead as a result of the atrocities and for whom bodies have been recovered is 365," that "there is no conclusive proof as to the number of dead" and that "neither the fact nor manner of death" of most of the soldiers listed in Hanley's report has been established.

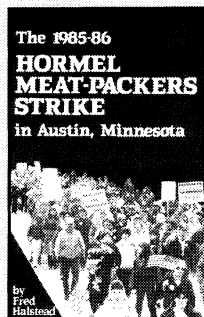
The actual text of Col. Hanley's original report contains only one specific incident involving American troops, the alleged killing of 200 U.S. Marines near Sinhung on Dec. 10, 1950, on order of a Chinese regimental commander.

I.F. Stone of the N. Y. *Daily Compass* points out that the cumulative total of all Marines officially listed as missing on Dec. 28, 1950 was only 79. Stone questioned U.S. Marine authorities in the Pentagon and learned they had never heard of the incident, had no reports of any Marines killed as prisoners of war and had heard from returned POW's that prisoners were, in fact, well-treated by the Chinese.

from Pathfinder

### The 1985–86 Hormel Meat-Packers Strike in Austin, Minnesota

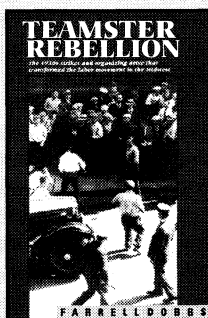
By Fred Halstead The hard-fought strike against Hormel opened a round of battles by packinghouse workers that—together with strikes by paper workers, cannery workers, and western coal miners—marked a break in the rout of the U.S. unions that began with the 1981–82 recession. \$5.00



### Teamster Rebellion

By Farrell Dobbs Tells the story of the 1934 strikes that built an industrial union and a fighting social movement in Minneapolis. \$16.95

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690. Fax: (212) 727-0150. When ordering by mail, please include \$3 to cover shipping and handling.



# Washington's declining empire

*The lack of any alternative to U.S. predominance today is a manifestation of the terminal weakness of finance capital's imperialist system of domination. The policy choices of the U.S. rulers do not represent international leadership by a rising social class, but the pragmatic survival tactics of a wealthy and powerful but declining social class at the helm of a decaying empire. The ruling capitalist families have no historical view, no line of march along which they are seeking to lead society. They have no long-term strategies. They make short-term decisions to deal with the problems at hand, test the waters, and confront further—and always unexpected—problems as defense of their profits and prerogatives require them to do so.*

*These ruling families rely on their national economic weight; the corruption and compliance it can purchase, including within broad layers of the working class; their massive military might; their monopoly of state power; and both legal and extralegal violence against those who resist their exploitation and oppression.*—From “What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold,” the 1988 resolution of the Socialist Workers Party, published in *New International* no. 10.

This passage from “What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold” stands in stark contrast to statements about the world by top U.S. government officials and politicians of both the Democratic and Republican parties. The spokespeople for the superwealthy capitalist class in the United States portray their war in Afghanistan and assault on workers' rights at home as an example of unrivaled American power and leadership. They hope to convince working people the world over—including in the United States—of this myth, and that it is not possible to stand up, fight, and win against Washington.

The truth can be seen by scratching the veneer of the “crusade” against “terrorism” that Washington is using as its latest justification for waging these wars at home and abroad. Far from a response to the attacks on September 11, the military assault in Central Asia is an extension of the more than decade-long assault on the rights, organization, social wage, and conditions on the job of working people in the United States. This war at home is one that the employers and their government have been pursuing with renewed vigor since the stock market crash sent shudders through world financial markets in 1987.

Since launching its war drive Washington has moved to codify attacks on workers' rights carried out under the administration of William Clinton, such as wider use of domestic spying and electronic eavesdropping, use of secret courts and indefinite detentions, erosion of Fourth Amendment protections against unwarranted search and seizure, and a range of other measures.

## Military tribunals and sedition laws

In addition, the Bush administration has now given authorization for use of military tribunals in which the accused have fewer rights than a military court martial. On orders of the U.S. president a person can be picked up, run through a secret “trial,” and imprisoned or executed. The executive order covers noncitizens, of which there are millions in the U.S. working class, and stands as a threat aimed

at the entire labor movement. Immigrant workers have been a central part of many labor battles over the past several years, and their incorporation into the unions has strengthened the working class and its organization in the United States to the detriment of the employers.

The government is also probing a revival of sedition laws, historically used to imprison opponents of government policy. Thomas Jefferson's statement that the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798 imposed by U.S. president John Adams was an “unconstitutional reign of terror” reflected the views of many workers and small farmers at the time.

These examples of “legal and extralegal violence against those who resist their exploitation and oppression” show how the U.S. empire increasingly relies on a strong federal government and executive authority to carry out actions that more and more conflict with the interests of working people at home and abroad. These moves reflect the decline of U.S. imperialism, affected by falling profit rates and a slowing economy, and preparations by the rulers to attempt to defeat coming struggles of working people resisting the effects of this economic crisis at home.

## Naked use of force

In establishing a “Pax Americana” Washington, like Rome and Britain before it, must more and more rely on the naked use of force, as the social and economic system of capitalism has long ago proved incapable of providing an avenue of advancement for humanity.

Washington has scored some victories in Afghanistan by pounding with bombs from afar one of the poorest countries in the world and one of the least equipped armies—without even advanced anti-aircraft weapons, tank battalions, or fighter squadrons. But as Pentagon operatives note, Washington has still to defeat the Taliban forces, something that can only be done with ground troops if the Taliban fighters continue to resist. The U.S. brass is moving more troops into the country to pursue their bloody war.

Within this rapidly escalating class struggle and polarization in the United States, workers, farmers, and youth can turn more deeply to the struggles of fellow toilers—whether it be battles to defend unions, such as that waged by dockworkers in South Carolina; to efforts to defend First Amendment rights, such as the campaign in support of Michael Itale, the recent socialist candidate for mayor of Miami; or struggles by mine workers and auto workers.

Especially important as the true face and future of imperialism is bared before the world, is reading, studying, distributing, and using in our struggles the history and lessons of the modern working-class movement contained in Pathfinder books and pamphlets. Books that present a working-class and fighting perspective and assessment of current developments such as *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, *Capitalism's World Disorder*, and the *New International* series are an invaluable part of this rich legacy.

We urge all our readers to join in efforts to promote solidarity among working people in struggle, to read and distribute Pathfinder books, and to join in the fight to build a proletarian leadership that can ensure that the coming revolutionary struggles of workers and farmers for a government of their own to replace the brutal rule of the last declining empire will be victorious.

# Defend right to display, sell books

The following press release was issued November 14 by supporters of the Pathfinder Bookshop in Christchurch, New Zealand.

The Pathfinder Press Bookshop received phone calls and a visit from police officer Paul O'Neill of Christchurch Central police station on November 9. He said the purpose of his visit was to convey “concern” expressed by Operation Deepfreeze (the United States Antarctic Program base) about the “anti-American character” of the shop's window display. He added that no formal complaint had been filed and that the bookshop had the “free-speech” right to have such materials in its window. The display in the window featured demands such as “End imperialist war against Afghanistan,” “Oppose attacks on unions, immigrants, workers' rights,” and “Build unity with struggles of working people.”

The display also reproduced an editorial from the *Militant* newspaper of October 15 entitled “War at home and abroad,” which discussed the connection between the employers' intensified attacks on working people at home and their brutal wars abroad. It featured a statement issued on September 11 by Martin Koppel, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York, which said in part: “By its systematic superexploitation of the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America; by its never-ending insults to their national and cultural dignity; by its ceaseless murderous violence in countless forms—U.S. imperialism is turning North America into a death trap for working people and all who live there.”

A number of books published by the New York publishing house Pathfinder Press were also prominent in the window, authored by Malcolm X, Che Guevara, socialist leaders in the United States, and others.

Supporters of the Pathfinder Press Bookshop are calling on all defenders of democratic rights to speak out in

defense of the right to display and sell literature that expresses political views contrary to the governments in Wellington and Washington. The police officer's visit was an act of intimidation not only against supporters of the bookshop, but against all those who likewise wish to oppose and campaign against the imperialist war drive.

The cop timed his visit to coincide with a Militant Labor Forum being held at the bookshop on the subject of New Zealand's and Australia's involvement in the Afghan war and why working people and youth should oppose it. Militant Labor Forums are held weekly and are a venue where those involved in fights against injustice and exploitation can participate in discussions on issues of importance to working people.

The bookshop shares office space with the Communist League and Young Socialists, which have had a presence in Christchurch for more than 30 years. It was the campaign headquarters for Annalucia Vermunt, the Communist League candidate for mayor of Christchurch in the recent local body elections. The campaign, which was featured prominently in the shop window, consistently spoke out against the imperialist war in Afghanistan.

Vermunt, who is manager of the Pathfinder Press Bookshop, said in response to O'Neill's visit, “This probe by police to try to intimidate opponents of the war points to why working people should oppose the new ‘antiterrorist’ laws being proposed by the government. The target of such laws will be the voices of dissent against the bosses and their government, in an attempt to silence such political views and curb the organization of working people. Increasing the powers of the cops and courts to intimidate and harass will only benefit the rulers as they press ahead with their attacks on the wages, conditions, and social entitlements of working people while participating in wars abroad like the one being waged against Afghanistan today.”

# Montreal election

Continued from back page  
municipal elections in Montreal.”

Cappe explained that there are 12 Canadian companies with investments in the former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan just north of Afghanistan. He denounced the hypocrisy of the Canadian government, which supports the use of cluster bombs in Afghanistan—“bombs that reduce human beings to shreds”—after leading an international campaign for the adoption of a treaty against land mines.

## Assault on workers' rights

“The war which the governments of the bosses are waging in Central Asia is an extension of their attacks against us here—the growing layoffs, the housing crisis, police brutality, and national oppression of the Quebecois, the Acadians, and the Natives. We can't defend ourselves as workers here if we allow the massacre of our class brothers and sisters over there.”

Bill C-36, currently being touted in the Canadian parliament as an “antiterrorist” law, “is a frontal assault against the fundamental rights won in struggles by workers and their allies, like the protection against arbitrary and improper arrest, the right to remain silent when arrested, and the freedom of association and expression,” said the communist candidate.

He concluded by inviting those present to support the struggle of the 82,000 primary and secondary school teachers in Quebec for pay equity, a measure that would significantly increase the wages of a number of low-paid workers, mostly women.

## National oppression of the Quebecois

The November 4 election was the first in the new city of Montreal, the product of the forced merger of some 20 municipalities on the island of Montreal. The merger was imposed by the Party Quebecois (PQ) government as a way to reduce the costs associated with this level of state power by slashing social services to working people and the jobs of city employees.

Gerald Tremblay, a former Liberal provincial cabinet minister who headed a coalition opposed to the merger, won the election. He defeated the outgoing mayor of the former city of Montreal, Pierre Bourque, a champion of the merger.

The vote revealed the deep national and social divisions here. Columnist Lysiane Gagnon wrote the next day in *La Presse*: “You just have to look at the map of the new city of Montreal. The line is clear, too obvious to be ignored: on one side, the west [side of the Montreal island], English-speaking, liberal, mainly suburban, generally better-off and anti-merger, allied with three districts in the northeast with a strong non-English and non-French speaking population; on the other side, the east, mainly French-speaking, pro-PQ and pro-merger.”

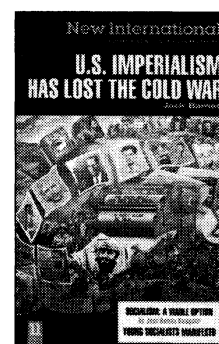
The French-speaking Quebecois are an oppressed minority within Canada, suffering discrimination based on their language. They make up 80 percent of Quebec residents and about 70 percent of the population in the greater region of Montreal. While the English-speaking minority, concentrated in the western part of the island of Montreal, has historically been privileged, the Quebecois continue to receive lower wages and substandard health and education services. The campaign against the merger was in essence a defense of the privileges of the English-speaking municipalities.

Alexandre Lampron is a garment worker and a member of the Young Socialists in Montreal.

## New International

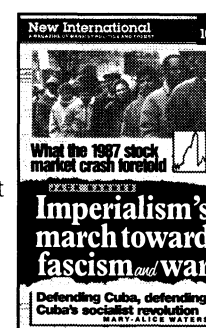
### No. 11

U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War by Jack Barnes and The Communist Strategy of Party Building Today by Mary-Alice Waters. Two programmatic documents of the Socialist Workers Party. **\$14.00**



### No. 10

•Imperialism's March Towards Fascism and War by Jack Barnes. •What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold. •Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution by Mary-Alice Waters. •The Curve of Capitalist Development by Leon Trotsky. **\$14.00**



Available from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12.



# The FBI's secret war on political freedom

Printed below are excerpts from *Cointelpro: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom* by Nelson Blackstock, one of Pathfinder's November Books of the Month. The piece quoted is from the chapter titled, "Firing teachers: 'The children and the country deserve to be protected.'" *Cointelpro* tells the story and reprints a number of FBI documents exposing the spying, harassment, and dirty tricks carried out by the FBI, CIA, military intelligence, and other U.S. police agencies against those who took a stand against government policies in the 1960s and '70s. Copyright © 1975 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission.

BY NELSON BLACKSTOCK

In 1968 the FBI took special pride in railroading Walter Elliot out of his hobby. As scoutmaster of Troop 339 in Orange, New Jersey, the FBI reasoned that he posed "a distinct threat to the goal of the scouting movement."

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Why? Walter Elliot was married to a socialist.

In the view of the bureau, this necessitated a Cointelpro operation to counteract his "strong influence in shaping the minds of young boys." The agent in charge of the effort called Elliot's removal a "successful application of the disruption program for a worthy cause."

The FBI sanctimoniously claims a special duty to "protect young minds." Protect them, that is, from ideas unpopular with the FBI. Teachers prove an obvious target with their strategic "access" to "fertile young minds," as one memo put it....

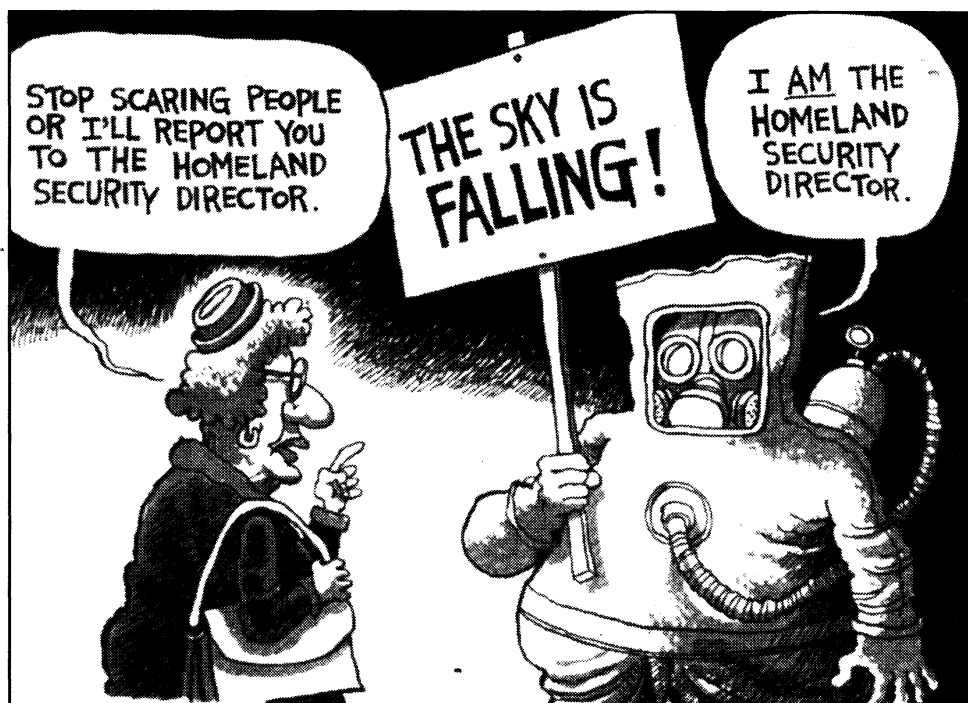
Prominent in the ranks of teachers victimized by the FBI is Morris Starsky. In 1970 the FBI encouraged Starsky's dismissal from his job as a professor of philosophy at Arizona State University. The Phoenix office of the FBI sent an anonymous

letter slandering him to a faculty committee reviewing his teaching contract.

In a memo dated May 31, 1968, the Phoenix FBI noted that local targets for Cointelpro were "pretty obvious.... It is apparent that New Left organizations and activities in the Phoenix metropolitan area have received their inspiration and leadership almost exclusively from the members of the faculty in the Department of Philosophy at Arizona State University (ASU), chiefly Assistant Professor MORRIS J. STARKSKY."

To that description of himself, Starsky adds that he helped organize the first anti-war teach-in at ASU; he led a campus free speech fight; he helped lead a successful campaign to win campus recognition for SDS; he participated in campus activities to support striking Tucson sanitation workers and a union organizing drive by Chicano laundry workers; he served as a presidential elector for the Socialist Workers party in 1968; he helped to reestablish the ASU chapter of the American Federation of Teachers; and he was the faculty adviser of the Young Socialist Alliance and the Student Mobilization Committee.

All that provoked quite a furor among right-wing state legislators and university regents. The Faculty Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure (whose members received the FBI's slanderous letters) held a hundred hours of public hearings on whether Starsky was entitled to teach at



ASU. Three thousand students and over 250 professors signed petitions supporting Starsky's right to academic freedom.

The committee's members were not duped by the FBI's anonymous slanders, although they expressed surprise five years later when they learned that "A Concerned Alumnus" was really [FBI Director] J. Edgar Hoover. The committee voted unanimously against dismissing Starsky. But the regents refused to renew his contract and he lost his job in June 1970. Starsky says that "it's sort of like being found innocent and executed anyway." Since ASU he has lost two teaching jobs in California for political reasons.

Starsky calls the FBI drive against him an attack on the rights of everyone. "What

teacher is safe?" he asks. "What ideas would not subject a teacher to this kind of attack?—only U.S. government-approved ideas."

Starsky has spent the past five years fighting for his rights in and out of court. He has won one damage suit already. And an Arizona court ruled that the ASU action violated his civil rights. Meanwhile, the FBI refuses to turn over to Starsky some of its files on him on the grounds of "national security."

"I've taught a couple of logic courses," he says, "but I had a hard time figuring out how my seeing my own files would harm national security. After I read the Cointelpro documents it became clear: 'national security' means the FBI's security from the nation finding out the vicious things it does in violation of people's civil liberties."

## Workers in Greece resist employers' assault

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN

ATHENS, Greece—Shipyard workers near the port city of Piraeus struck for 48 hours October 22–24 after five workers were killed in an explosion. On the first day of the strike, more than 500 people marched to the Merchant Marine Ministry to condemn the employers' disregard for the lives and limbs of the workers.

The workers had been welding inside the tanker hold of a vessel when an explosion killed them. The ship's captain, three managers from the maintenance company, and the company chemist had all signed permits authorizing the welding. The permits speci-

fied that the area was free of gases. These five were subsequently arrested and charged with manslaughter.

The General Confederation of Greek Workers, the Piraeus Labor Center, and the Unions of Workers in the Shipyard Zone have charged that contractors are operating "in the zone and obtaining work permits without proper tests."

Another walkout occurred October 25 when more than 400 Metro workers struck for contracts and wage structures to be implemented as of January 2002 rather than June 2002 as the company planned. The workers are demanding uniform wage packages, hiring to fill empty positions, and better regulation of work schedules. They currently work 10–12 hours a day.

With the downturn in travel, the airline companies have been pushing for major concessions here as well. Swissport, a division of Swiss Air in Greece, "came at us with a series of concessionary proposals," Maria Plessa told the *Militant*. "They demanded 30 layoffs of permanent workers and the termination of all 20 temporary workers. They also demanded that 200

workers be put on four-hour contracts and 300 on six-hour contracts. Right now all 500 of us are on full-time eight-hour contracts." Plessa works for Swissport at the Athens International Airport.

"Some of the workers were intimidated into accepting the idea that we needed to accept concessions in order to save our jobs," she said. "However among baggage handlers and the ramp the feeling was strongly for rejecting the company demands." At the union meeting, which was attended by more than 500 members, the vote was overwhelming against a revised proposal from the union officials to accept four-hour contracts for five months in order to help the company.

"This too was rejected," Plessa said, "and instead a proposal to accept seven-hour contracts on a temporary basis was passed. This has since been rejected by the company."

Swissport is the largest air transport company here, outside of Olympic Airways, the state carrier. Workers at British Airways, KLM, Lufthansa, and other airlines have all rejected company concession demands for now, report workers at the airport.

## LETTERS

### IRA decommissioning

I felt that the description of Irish Republican Army (IRA) decommissioning in the November 12 issue might be misconstrued, because the article said the IRA would "destroy its weapons." I would like to point readers towards the statements issued by Óglaigh na hÉireann (the IRA) and the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD) on the matter. Many thanks for your otherwise good coverage of Ireland.

The IRA's October 23 statement noted

that "in order to save the peace process we have implemented the scheme agreed with the IICD in August. Our motivation is clear. This unprecedented move is to save the peace process and to persuade others of our genuine intentions."

The IICD report on October 23 said:

"1. On 6 August 2001, the Commission reported that agreement had been reached with the IRA on a method to put IRA arms completely and verifiably beyond use. This would be done in such a way as to involve no risk to the public and avoid the possibility of misappropriation by others."

"2. We have now witnessed an event—which we regard as significant—in which the IRA has put a quantity of arms completely beyond use. The material in question includes arms, ammunition and explosives."

J.D.  
San Francisco, California

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people.

Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

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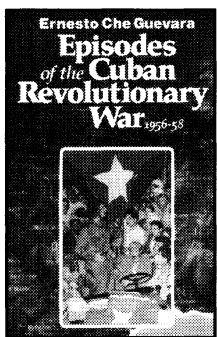
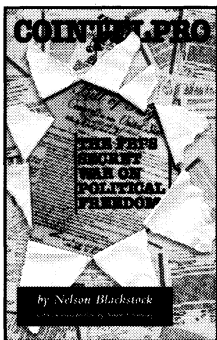
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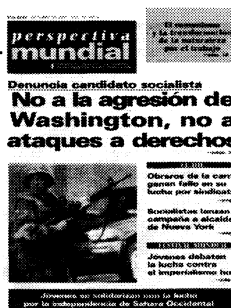
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## 16,000 VW workers walk out in Brazil

BY RÓGER CALERO

Some 16,000 auto workers at the Volkswagen São Bernardo do Campo plant in São Paulo, Brazil, went out on strike November 12 after rejecting company demands to either cut wages and working hours by 15 percent or accept the layoffs of 3,000 workers.

The layoffs, which represent 11 percent of Volkswagen's (VW) 26,800 total Brazilian work force and are among the largest in the country's recent history, are part of the automaker's plans to cut production costs and weaken the auto workers union. They follow the failure of negotiations began earlier in November.

After the breakdown in the talks, the union accused VW of blackmail and promised to go out on strike as soon "as the first layoff is announced," according to press reports.

Volkswagen bosses claimed that the auto workers' refusal to accept "more flexible shifts" left them no option but to institute the job cuts.

Auto workers voted unanimously to strike at a mass rally outside the factory complex on the morning the layoffs took effect. They also authorized union representatives to negotiate directly with VW headquarters in Germany.

Union leaders told the assembled work-



Workers rally outside Volkswagen plant in São Paulo November 12 after voting to go on strike in opposition to mass layoffs, imposed after they rejected demands for cuts in wages and hours.

ers that the termination was an act of "aggression, truculence, cowardice, and terrorism." According to press reports, workers went to the production line after the vote and stayed there the rest of the afternoon.

The company has defended the layoffs by pointing to the sharp drop in car sales in Brazil in the context of a slowing economy, a

weakening currency, and high interest rates.

Brazil's auto industry reported that car sales fell 15 percent in October last year, while production dropped 13 percent.

Although capitalist economists have praised Brazil for its efforts to distance itself from the effects of the 41-month economic recession dragging down the

economy in Argentina, the Brazilian economy has not avoided the effects of the worldwide slowdown that is hitting hardest in underdeveloped countries. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, the growth in Brazil's gross domestic product has dropped from 4.5 percent in 2000 to under 2 percent this year. Many industries have carried out large-scale layoffs and face wholesale bankruptcies.

"The workers are not responsible for the fall in the market of Volkswagen, which wants to cut wages," said the ABC Metalworkers union president, Luiz Marinho, at the rally at the São Bernardo do Campo plant. He blamed VW's sales shortfall on the company's failure to launch new products. Company officials have stated that they need to reduce the payroll to remain competitive. The company also plans to invest \$769 million in refurbishing the plant where it will produce a new range of models by the end of the year.

Volkswagen, the largest car manufacturer in the country with 27 percent of Brazil's market share, is facing sharp competition from Fiat, which has 26 percent. The German auto maker is seeking to cut the average wage of auto workers in the São Paulo area by more than half, down to the levels paid in the south of the country. In their drive to weaken the union, auto firms have been shifting production out of São Paulo, traditionally the center of the auto industry, and a union stronghold.

The *Financial Times* stated that the VW bosses' latest moves are a signal of their "readiness to confront the union, whose strength has declined over the past 20 years."

The strike is expected to cut VW's daily production by between 850 and 900 cars. The union is considering picketing car dealers in anticipation of company attempts to blunt the strike's effectiveness by using stocks accumulated during a period of declining sales.

## Three UK steelworkers killed in blast

BY ROSE KNIGHT

LONDON—Steelworkers Andrew Hutin, 20, and Stephen Galsworthy, 26, were killed November 8 when a blast furnace at the Corus plant in Margam, South Wales exploded. Len Radford, 53, died later as a result of his injuries. Ten other workers are in Morriston Hospital, Swansea, five of them on life support machines with burns covering up to 50 percent of their bodies, broken bones from being thrown through the air, and internal injuries from inhaling red-hot gases and toxic fumes.

"We believe that this is the worst accident since 1975 when 11 workers were killed in a steel plant in Scunthorpe," said Ken Penton, head of communications at the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation Union (ISTC). The union has donated £10,000 (US\$14,400) to the Port Talbot Blast Appeal.

The explosion occurred when molten iron burst through a wall of the 10-story no. 5 blast furnace. The furnace, the oldest on the site, produced 30,000 tons of steel a week and was due for a refit to extend its life for five years. Corus maintained that the furnace had been operating normally and was not due to have its lining replaced until 2005. The company employs 3,000 workers at the mill, which produces 3 million tons of steel a year.

The deaths bring to nine the number of workers killed at Corus UK plants since the company was formed two years ago. The company was due to be sentenced November 10 at the Cardiff Crown Court for an explosion at the Llanwern plant in September 2000 in which a contract worker fractured his spine. The worker was blown off a ladder when waste from the manufacturing process exploded upon coming into contact with water. Two workers were killed in January, and last April Stephen Prosser died at a plant in South Yorkshire while carrying out work normally done by at least two workers. A verdict of accidental death was returned at the inquest.

The Health and Safety Executive, a government body, has launched an investigation jointly with South Wales police into the latest explosion. Corus UK and the ISTC will conduct their own inquiries. ISTC general secretary Micheal Leahy said, "Our thoughts are with those who have been injured and the family of the person killed in today's tragedy. We shall be working closely with Corus but we shall also be asking them some serious questions to find out why this has happened."

Following another safety-related workplace death, criminal proceedings began

November 7 in London against Euromin, a shipping company. Simon Jones, a student working at the firm as a stevedore, was decapitated by the jaws of a crane excavator two hours after starting work at a dockyard in Shoreham harbor, West Sussex. He had not received any health and safety instructions and had not been issued safety equipment.

The company had devised a system to cut

down the time Jones had to unload bags of stone and aggregates from a cargo ship by attaching them to chains hanging from the underside of a clam-shaped grab. The jaws of the grab closed when the operating lever got caught in the operator's clothing, killing Jones. Ten weeks before the incident, a manager had ordered staff to weld hooks inside the grab to avoid having to stop work to change the excavator attachment.

## Montreal meat packer wraps up campaign

BY ALEXANDRE LAMPRON AND MICHEL PRAIRIE

MONTREAL—Thirty-five workers and young people turned out for an election-evening rally to back Communist League candidate Al Cappe for mayor of Montreal. "My supporters and I organized a successful campaign against imperialism and its war in Afghanistan, against the accelerating attacks of the bosses and their governments on our rights as working people, and in building solidarity with workers and farmers in struggle here and around the world," Cappe told the meeting.

Among the speakers at the rally was Cappe's co-worker Gabriel Laperrière, who is 22 years old. Both are employed at Viande Connaisseur and are members of Local 500 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW). The workers at Viande Connaisseur prepare and package meat for the 40 stores of the Maxi grocery chain in Quebec.

Laperrière said he campaigned in support of Cappe on the job, and discussed the war against Iraq and the Cuban Revolution with other workers, drawing on articles in the Marxist magazine *Nouvelle Internationale*.

After learning that workers at Maxi in eastern Quebec were on strike, he contacted the UFCW for more information in order to circulate a letter of support on the job. Together with Cappe, he visited a picket line of workers at Technilab, a pharmaceutical company north of Montreal.

Laperrière described a foreman's surprise at hearing him discuss the economic crisis and its political implications with another young worker in the factory. "The bosses are always surprised by our consciousness," he said.

**No to extradition of Basque activists**

Ion Etxebarria, a Basque trade unionist visiting Montreal and a spokesperson for the

committee in defense of Basque political prisoners, also spoke. He described the struggle to stop the extradition to Spain of Gorka Perea Salazar and Eduardo Plagaro Perez de Arrilucea, two Basque activists involved in social struggles and in the fight for the national rights of the Basque people.

"Salazar and de Arrilucea were sentenced in Spain to six and seven years in prison in the middle of the 1990s based on confessions extracted under torture," Etxebarria said.

He explained that the two fled to Canada where they asked for political refugee status, a request the Canadian government has delayed acting on for years. They have been imprisoned since last June when the Spanish government called for their extradition.

Yannick Duguay, a student at the University of Laval in Quebec City, spoke of the Young Socialists' support for the Cappe campaign. Duguay met the YS in Montreal after participating in the Summit of the People, held alongside the imperialist-dominated Summit of the Americas in Quebec City last April. He rejected the protectionist positions taken by antiglobalization activists.

"The Young Socialists base themselves on a scientific understanding of the crisis of the capitalist system and put forward the only solution to bring it to an end—that is, a revolutionary struggle to establish a workers and farmers government in this country, which will abolish the capitalist system of exploitation and join in the international struggle for socialism," he said.

"The Young Socialists study the lessons of past struggles of the working-class, which produces all of the wealth and has the capacity to change society," Duguay told the rally. "They collaborate with experienced communist workers active in the building of a working-class party capable of leading this historic struggle."

The YS had organized two literature tables and a public meeting for Cappe at the

University of Laval in Quebec City, several hours drive east of Montreal. Of the 19 people attending the event, 10 young people bought the *Militant* and left their names to be contacted about other activities of the Young Socialists.

**Support on the job**

A photographer for *La Presse*, the main daily newspaper in Montreal, came to photograph Cappe at work for an article on the campaign, said the socialist in the keynote address. The three-quarter page article was published three days prior to the election.

"As I was leaving the cafeteria where I had a coffee with the photographer, a co-worker said to me, 'Wait until we finish our break.' Fifteen minutes later, I found myself with about 10 of my co-workers behind me.

"When I turned to them and said, 'You're all aware that this is a photo for *La Presse* on the campaign for mayor of Montreal of a communist worker?' They smiled and shouted, 'Yes!'" *La Presse* published another picture, but campaign supporters displayed the collective photo.

"I am the only candidate in the elections who is a worker with a political program that defends the interests of working people," said Cappe. "My co-workers appreciated the fact that someone took them seriously. 'For once we are something,' said a women co-worker speaking about my campaign."

Several newspapers and electronic media noted Cappe's opposition to the war on Afghanistan, a central theme of his campaign. The media coverage was among the most substantial received by the Communist League in Montreal in a number of years.

"Unlike the journalists," said Cappe, "workers, farmers, and youth that I spoke with never asked me what the connection was between the war in Afghanistan and the

**Continued on Page 14**